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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19552

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1997 • ADAR II 29, 5757 • 30 THU AL-QADAH 1417

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The New York Times
An endgame for the Mideast
 8-page supplement

Goldie Hawn's dream comes true
 Arts & Entertainment, Page 5

Allison Kaplan Sommer: The Mommy Track
 Page 7

Index

Arts & Entertainment	5
Business	8
Crossword	11
Movies/TV	11
Opinion	6
Sports	10



Smoke rises from the burning Israel Aircraft Industries warehouse in Be'er Ya'acov yesterday. (Barak Wolfson, courtesy of 'Ma'ariv')

1 injured in IAI factory blaze

One worker was lightly injured from smoke inhalation when an explosion set a warehouse at the Israel Aircraft Industries factory in Be'er Ya'acov on fire yesterday afternoon.

A worker was welding something in a storehouse containing metals, chemicals, paints, and gases when the fire began. The flames engulfed the two-story warehouse. Thick black smoke covered the area of the factory.

Some 20 fire department vehicles arrived on the scene, as did police, Magen David Adom, and an Environment Ministry inspector.

After three hours, firefighters succeeded in putting out the blaze, and the fire did not spread to other structures.

The injured worker was brought to Tzrifin's Assaf Harofeh Hospital for treatment for smoke inhalation.

Residents said they heard a loud blast before the flames became visible. However, IAI said there had been no explosion, but only a fire, which did not involve dangerous chemicals.

Be'er Ya'acov Local Council head Yoav Rafael said he intends to intensify protests and organize demonstrations if the company does not reveal the kind of chemicals the factory is dealing with, and whether they endanger area residents.

An investigation will be conducted into the cause of the fire. Regulations will also be examined to determine if welding is allowed in such warehouses. (Iim)

Israel rejects EU intervention

Netanyahu, Clinton meet today

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and HILLEL KUTTLER

On the eve of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Israel has rebuffed an attempt by the European

Mordechai orders high alert on return from US, Page 2

One-man cabinet

Moshe Katsav is a busy man these days. In addition to continuing his duties as tourism minister, he is filling in for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister David Levy, Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who are abroad. (Iim)

Meanwhile, the Clinton administration held consultations with the Palestinian Authority on approaches toward resolving the current stalemate. Special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross was scheduled to meet with PA representative Hanan Ashrawi.

Palestinian negotiators Saeb Erakat and Mahmoud Abbas are also reportedly scheduled to visit the US later in the week.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat was en route to India to urge Non-Aligned Movement nations "to support Palestinian political rights and condemn the Israeli settlement activity," his adviser, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, told Reuters.

National security adviser Sandy Berger told CNN Saturday night that it is "premature" to discuss a Camp David-like summit to repair the breach.

Berger added that the US believes that final and interim status negotiations can proceed simultaneously.

"First of all, that's process over substance," he said of the summit possibility first mentioned by Netanyahu. "What we need to do first is focus on how we can get the parties back into direct negotiations."

Continued on Page 2

Arbel weighs whether to levy charges

By LIAT COLLINS and RAINE MARCUS

Following a seven-hour meeting yesterday between prosecutors and the police team investigating the Bar-On Affair, the State Attorney's Office said it could not yet determine whether indictments would be filed, but would not rule out the possibility after "supplementary investigations."

A spokeswoman for State Attorney Edna Arbel issued a terse statement, saying further meetings might be necessary and that it had been decided to carry out supplementary investigations, but "the State Attorney's Office is at the stage of formulating its conclusions."

"We are checking the material and considering whether there is reason to file indictments, but I will say no more than that," Arbel told reporters.

The dilemma is not only whether the evidence is sufficient to warrant charges, but whether it would stand up in a courtroom.

Arbel said the complementary investigations "would not change the general picture."

Channel 1, which broke the story that kicked off the investigation, last night said the police are considering recommending that breach of trust charges be filed against Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office. Even if such a recommendation is made, however, the final decision

A sexy voice helps catch a thief

By DAVID RUDGE

A glib thief who broke into a house in Haifa's Danya district was lured into the arms of the law, after he answered a call on the mobile phone which was among the items he had stolen.

The suspect succumbed to the seductive voice on the phone, believing it was a lonely woman looking for a companion. He agreed to a meeting and even took the trouble to be presentable and put on after-shave - little realizing that his blind date was with First Sgt. Maj. Yardena Rahamin.

Rahamin, who was the duty switchboard operator in the police control room at the time the break-in was discovered on Saturday morning, called the number of the stolen mobile phone several times before it was answered.

She ad-libbed on the phone until the thief agreed to meet her, then hastily changed into civilian clothes and took her own car to the appointment in Haifa's Hadar section.

Rahamin told reporters that the suspect looked "very pleased with himself and even apologized for being late because he'd had to shower and put on after-shave."

His manner quickly changed to shock, however, when he entered her car and was arrested by detectives who accompanied Rahamin.

Police spokeswoman Supt. Shomit Minkovsky, said the suspect, 22, from Haifa, came to the "date" in the car he had stolen from the house in Danya. She said all the other stolen property, including valuable paintings and other items, worth tens of thousands of shekels, were found in the car.

BANK LEUMI LE-ISRAEL B.M.
 (Incorporated in Israel)
NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF ORDINARY STOCK

Notice is hereby given that the 46th Ordinary General Meeting of the Bank will be held at its Registered Office, 34-32 Yehuda Halevy Street, Tel Aviv, on Tuesday, 29th April, 1997, at 14:00 in the afternoon, for the following purposes:

1. Receiving and considering the Financial Statements and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors for the year ending 31st December, 1996;
2. Approving payment of a dividend in respect of 1996 at the rate of 14% of paid-up capital (some 35% of the net annual profit);
3. Electing the Directors retiring by rotation and offering themselves for reelection (Mr. Baruch Bahar, Adv. Mayer Gabay, Adv. Renana Guttman and Mr. Itzhak Rahav);
4. Approving Directors' fees and attendance fees for both regular and other meetings, including those of the Directors from Among the Public, at the maximum rate fixed for Directors from Among the Public;
5. Approving the salary of the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the payment of a bonus in request of the results of 1996;
6. Reelecting the Auditors Shoshita Chalkin and Braude Barly and authorizing the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration.

A member entitled to attend and vote may appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and vote on his or her behalf. A proxy need not be a member of the Bank.

Tel Aviv, 7th April, 1997

By Order of the Board
 Jennifer Jones, Adv.
 Secretary

The full text of the resolutions on the agenda may be examined at the office of the Secretariat of the Bank at the Bank's Registered Office, 34-32 Yehuda Halevy Street, Tel Aviv, during normal business hours.

bank leumi בנק לאומי

Hiker dies in fall

Barzilai of Mevasse...
 haleyim fell to his death...
 morning from a cliff top...
 Kidron in the Judean Desert...
 zilai, 22, was hiking...
 five friends in the wadi...
 y, when night approached...
 they decided to make camp...
 rday morning, Barzilai...
 e before his friends...
 climbing the wadi's south...
 alone.

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Hapoel TA hoopsters relegated

Hapoel Tel Aviv's basketball club has been relegated to the second division after 43 years in the National Basketball League.

The once-proud franchise was replaced by Bnei Herzliya. Story, Page 10.

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NEWS

in brief

Clalit workers to strike today

Administrative and maintenance workers at Kupat Holim Clalit are to strike today for higher pay and better working conditions, but doctors, nurses, and pharmacists will be on the job. Clalit said yesterday that all its clinics would remain open.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Outdated flour may come from territories

Tons of flour being sold in Gaza and the West Bank at low prices because its "sell by" date has long passed may be finding its way into Israel, according to a report by an investigating committee of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

The council first investigated the sale of old flour more than two months ago and recommended that Rations Minister Abdel Aziz Shabih be reprimanded for the practice. The committee reported 1,800 cases of Palestinians poisoned by tainted flour.

A Civil Administration official said although it would be difficult to bring in tainted flour from Gaza, where security checks are strict, there is nothing to stop an Israeli from going to Nablus, buying up cheap flour, ostensibly for private use, and selling it in Israel.

Jon Immanuel

PA teachers launch strike

High school teachers in most larger West Bank towns began an open-ended strike yesterday, the first under the Palestinian Authority, after weeks of protests over low salaries and dismissals. The strike included Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron. Schools in Tulkarm and Kalkilya, where no teachers were dismissed, remained open.

Experienced teachers who earn about NIS 1,300 are demanding salaries of NIS 2,000-2,500. Although low, teachers salaries are in line with those of other PA-paid employees. Police, for example receive under NIS 1,000.

Jon Immanuel

Abu Marzook to face hearing today

Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, in a legal quagmire since Israel suspended his extradition request, is expected to be turned over to the custody of US immigration officials at a hearing in New York federal court today.

Abu Marzook, the political leader of Hamas, has been in a federal jail in New York for nearly 22 months, while US prosecutors - acting at Israel's request - sought his extradition. However, once extradition was suspended last Thursday, it appeared US authorities had no reason to detain him. The immigration "exclusion" hearing is to determine if the US can deport Abu Marzook, who holds a green card. Jordan is considered his most likely destination.

Marilyn Henry

IDF sets limits for Joseph's Tomb

The IDF yesterday afternoon permitted students at the Od Yosef Chai yeshiva in the Joseph's Tomb compound in Nablus to return to the site, after having earlier ordered them out of the area.

According to yeshiva director Eli Rosenfeld, the army will only allow up to 100 people to be present in the compound, including the 70 yeshiva students who study there. Rosenfeld said the IDF informed him of the decision after reassessing the situation late yesterday afternoon.

Yesterday morning, the IDF had closed Joseph's Tomb to worshippers and the yeshiva students only hours after allowing them back into the compound.

Margot Dudkevitch

BAR-ILAN
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and
Midrashe for Women

extend deepest condolences to Dr. Morris L. Green
a member of its Executive Committee and Past Chairman
on the passing of his mother

BERTHA GREEN ע"ה

in New York

May he be comforted in his dedicated efforts
for Torah and Zion

In great sorrow we announce the passing of

JENNIE SORSCHER ע"ה

Arrival of TWA Flight scheduled for 3 p.m. The funeral will take place at Shalom Funeral Parlor on Monday, April 7 at approximately 5 p.m. and proceed to Har Hanehuot Cemetery, Heliak Hasidim.

Shiva will be at the home of Moshe Sorscher (grandson) at 134 Maalot Dafna, Jerusalem until 9 p.m. on Monday only. Tel. 02-581-8231.

In the US shiva will be at the home of Moshe Sorscher (son) at 1014 E. 7th Street, Brooklyn, NY.

The family

With deep sorrow we announce
the passing of

Prof. ARON ALFRED BONDI ע"ה

Mourning by his wife:

Eva Bondi nee Markin

Daughter and son-in-law:

Margalite and Shmuel Shilo

Sister: Heda Yudkis

Brother: Fritz Bondi

grandchildren and great-grandchildren

The funeral took place yesterday,

Sunday, April 6, 1997, 28 Adar 2

ברוך דיין אמת, נפלה עמרת ראשנו

High alert, closure to continue

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Soldiers in the territories are to remain on high alert and the closure imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is to remain in effect, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said last night following his return from the United States.

Immediately after his arrival, Mordechai was briefed on the security situation by Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and OC Intelligence Maj-Gen. Moshe

Ya'alon. Meeting in his Tel Aviv office, Mordechai also heard reports of the week's events from Ami Ayalon, head of the General Security Service, and was updated on the events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by IDF commanders.

Avi Benayahu, Mordechai's spokesman, said the forum was not satisfied with the way the Palestinian Authority has cracked down on terror groups. Mordechai, in coordination with those present, decided that the closure would continue for now, with the exception of a few steps taken on a

humanitarian and economic basis.

The high alert which has been in effect since before Land Day last week is to remain in effect.

Mordechai said his three-day visit struck a positive chord with the Americans and that he achieved all of his objectives. He instructed defense ministry officials to work together with the Pentagon over the next few days to consolidate the agreements reached during his meeting with US Defense Secretary William Cohen.

AIPAC votes down resolution on Jerusalem construction

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - AIPAC's executive committee voted yesterday against a resolution that would affirm the right of Jews to "live and build anywhere in Jerusalem."

A participant in the meeting stated that AIPAC president Melvin Dow was one of two panel members to speak out against the resolution, arguing that such a statement was unnecessary.

AIPAC's policy of recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the entire city was sufficient, Dow reportedly said.

The committee, meeting on the first day of the organization's annual conference here, also spurned a motion linking US aid to the PLO to its fulfillment of specific commitments under the Oslo accords. AIPAC's platform already states generally that aid should be linked, but the proposed resolution would have called for specific reductions based on specific violations.

However, the organization is said to be considering advocating that Congress adopt stricter standards in evaluating the PLO's compliance.



Book fair opens

Some of the 150,000 book titles being exhibited at the Jerusalem International Book Fair, which opened yesterday.

(Yonatan Loeb)

Poland to repay Swiss account heirs

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Poland will return to legal heirs the funds Warsaw received from dormant Jewish accounts in Swiss banks, according to the Polish Embassy in the US.

In 1975, Switzerland paid Poland nearly \$100,000 to settle what were then classified as the dormant accounts of Polish citizens from the Holocaust era. That payment settled a 1949 Swiss-Polish treaty in which each state compensated the other for the losses of their respective citizens.

The Swiss claim stemmed from property seized by the post-war communist regime in Poland.

The rights of Holocaust victims and heirs to unclaimed assets in Switzerland remained "wholly intact," according to Swiss historian Peter Hug. What has changed in 50 years is "where these assets are administered and the authority liable for them," wrote Hug. Poland is liable for any assets transferred to Warsaw.

According to published accounts, 53 Poles had accounts in Swiss banks in 1939. It is not clear how many heirs have been identified since the Swiss-Polish treaty came to public attention a number of months ago. Inquiries should be sent to the Polish Embassy in Tel Aviv with a copy to The Jerusalem Post.

Those holding the bank accounts were: Emil Adorjan, Pradla;

Charlotte Amsterdam, Warsaw; Harry Balieu, Danzig; Ascher Bank, Tarnow; Layzor Benbaum, Leib Selig, Blech; Menel Bruno Blumenfeld, Lvov; Lewin Blumenthal, Warsaw; Marcell Buber, Lvov; Wigdor Bychowski, Warsaw; Ernst Epstein, Cracow; Oswel Epstein, Warsaw; Carl Freudenthal, Warsaw; Michael Friedberg, Warsaw; Isak Friedlander, Danzig; Herman Friedlander, Danzig; Salomea Gartenberg, Warsaw; Andreas Gawlik, Krakow; Andrzej Gdowski, Krakow; Stanislaw Goldstein, Warsaw; Henri Grohman-Hole, Lodz; Camilla Hiner, Gieszyn; Adolf Kozerski, Krakow; J. Krepel, Warsaw; Fanny Landau, Paula Lazarus, Danzig; Ludwika Leiner, Lvov; Filip Lieberman, Stanislaw; Mendel Loscher, Jan Watuszewski, Warsaw; Dr. R. May, Poznan; Herta Mayer-Thiel, Lvov; Helena Nasfeter, Wolomin; Helena Pulska, Warsaw; Samuel Rabinow, Paris; Salomon Ramer, Andre Rotwand, Warsaw; David Salinger-Casper, Pannent; Michael Sapeter, Lvov; Elisabeth Schulz, Koutz; Nachum Scharf, Lvov; Helena Silberzweig, Cracow; Shopie Skowrenska, Warsaw; Max Sperber, Lvov; Marie Strasburger, Piasch; Swiski; Zygmunt Teebang, Warsaw; Elsie Trenkler, Warsaw; Isaac Weizman, Konigsberg; Rudolf O.A. Weitzel, Danzig; and Emma (Ernstine) Zionel Achslrad, Warsaw.

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

MINNIE SHEINK (née Brodie)

In her one hundredth year

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Myra Janner ע"ה

Jane Meerklin

Jonathan Sheink

Devoted mother-in-law of

Greville Janner

Sam Meerklin

Hana Sheink

on 28th Adar, April 6, 1997.

Deeply mourned by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

wife, mother, sister and grandmother

TZIVIA KATSMAN (née Perlstein)

of Chicago, Ill and Seattle, WA.

The coffin will arrive at Ben Gurion Airport today, Monday, on TWA Flight 884 at 3.10 p.m. The funeral will take place one & a-half hours later at Eretz Hachaim Cemetery (Yeshiva University section) outside Beit Shemesh.

Husband: Rabbi Phillip Katsman, Seattle, WA

Children: Daniel and Hannah Katsman, Petah Tikvah

Rachel and Yitzchak Ginsberg, Beit Ilit

Avraham Yitzchak Katsman, New York

Devorah and Gershon Segal, Baltimore, MD

Aharon Katsman, Jerusalem

Sister: Leah and Rabbi Moshe Litoff, Petah Tikvah

The shiva will be held at the Litoff family, 18 Rehov Ben Yehuda, Petah Tikvah

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Peace Now: Settlers living in 3 army outposts

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

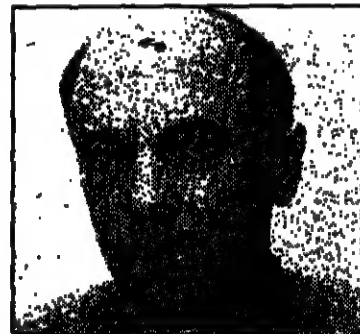
As the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza continues to deny reports of a building boom in Judea and Samaria, Peace Now says it knows of three military outposts where settlers have moved in, hoping to establish new settlements.

According to Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Ya'ari, apart from the outpost of Ofim, near Ofra, reported in the media 10 days ago, and Rehelim on the Jerusalem-Nablus highway reported yesterday, a movement activist discovered a third outpost, Nahal Plugot in Gush Etzion.

Ya'ari said the settlers at the outposts are bachelors. "It appears the settlers have decided to use a different strategy," she said.

However, council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein called the reports "an outcry over nothing."

"There is nothing new in the reports about settlers living on military outposts, many have been living in outposts for years. I wish I had some news to report regarding new settlements or a housing boom," he said.



Pinhas Wallerstein (Jesse Harari)

In response to the charges, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's media adviser Avi Benayahu said last night that in accordance with government decisions, no new settlements are being established in Judea and Samaria.

Ten days ago, Israel Radio broadcast a report on settlers living in shipping containers in Ofim. After Channel 1 aired an item showing the containers in which the settlers lived two days later, police arrested the settlers and detained them for questioning. At the time, the council said it had no knowledge of the settlement.

ment. Ofra secretary Yona Hoffman said the Ofra group consisted of three or four young men who have been living on the hilltop for at least a year. Hoffman added that the hilltop was five kilometers from Ofra and had no connection with it.

Reports regarding Rehelim, near Shilo, claimed that the council was attempting to change its status to a settlement. The outpost was established six years ago, when terrorists shot and killed Rachel Druck and Yitzhak Rofeh.

However, Wallerstein dismissed any plans to turn the outpost into a settlement.

Meanwhile, Peace Now plans to demonstrate at the entrances to Sha'ar Tikva this morning, calling for the government to freeze construction in all settlements.

"The government has recently authorized the construction of an additional 48 units at Sha'ar Tikva," said Ya'ari adding that many of the existing units are still empty. To symbolize their call, the settlers and detained them for questioning. At the time, the council said it had no knowledge of the settlement.

EU

Continued from Page 1

reestablish a basis of trust between the parties, so they can be dealing with both the remaining issues in the interim agreement, and get on with the fundamental issues of the final-status agreement.

"So, first things first. First things are back to negotiations, deal with the substance. Let's not worry about which camp we meet at."

Berger also said that the US "wishes that [Har Homa] hadn't gone forward. We think that it erodes confidence in the process."

Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday rejected the EU's demand to "freeze" the settlements and the construction work on Har Homa and told Moratinos that if the Europeans insist on these issues and their own proposals, they would lose the status of honest brokers in the dispute.

After meeting with Levy, Moratinos said he is formulating a package deal to solve the crisis. His plan, which he intends to present to the EU heads in Brussels and the Americans today, is based on hammering out a new "code of behavior" for the resumption of talks, based on stopping terrorism and violence on the Palestinian side and halting the settlements on Israel's.

Moratinos told Levy that he met Arafat on Saturday, and the latter reiterated his commitment to fight terrorism. Moratinos expressed optimism as to the chances of reviving the peace process.

Commenting on Netanyahu's trip to Washington, Levy said he is unaware of "any American pressures on Netanyahu in relation to this trip. The American position is

known. It is [not based] on confrontation or pressure, but in a friendly, amicable and responsible debate."

Meanwhile, Netanyahu last night was to discuss his latest initiative with King Hussein at Minnesota's Mayo Clinic, where Hussein underwent prostate surgery this weekend. Netanyahu then flies to Washington for one day. He is to meet with Clinton and have a separate discussion with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. He will also hold a press conference.

The Israeli Embassy announced that Netanyahu will not address a Reform movement conference as

scheduled, but will meet with several Reform and Conservative rabbis.

Netanyahu was expected to come under fire at the conference from a Reform movement upset by the initial passage of a bill that would prevent Reform and Conservative conversions from being performed in Israel.

Netanyahu is also scheduled to address a Christian-Jewish group, Voices United for Israel, and will speak before the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee before heading back to Israel tonight.

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Righteous Gentile

Cisela von Oppenheim shows her brothers, Barons Friedrich Carl (center) and Alfred von Oppenheim, the name of their father, Baron Friedrich Carl von Oppenheim, on a memorial to Righteous Gentiles at Yad Vashem. Von Oppenheim, a financier, was honored yesterday for his role in helping Jews escape from Nazi Germany.

Police step up war against road accidents

By RAME MARCUS

From this morning, drivers can expect to "meet police vans every seven or 10 kilometers," in an attempt by police and the Transport Ministry to reduce road accidents. Traffic Police chief Cmdr. Bertie Ohayon told a Tel Aviv press conference yesterday. Scores of police vehicles and unmarked cars will now patrol 700 kilometers of intercity highways in the year-long, NIS 15 million project, dubbed Project 700. Highways being included in the new project are those where 60% of all accidents occurred last year. The areas being monitored will



Warning symbol: Area of increased enforcement

be marked with large yellow signs. Fifty more policemen are being deployed on the roads for the duration of the project. Drivers who speed, keep insufficient distance from the car in front of them, fail to signal or commit any other offense risk

being flagged down, Ohayon said. But Project 700 is intended primarily as a deterrent, since police believe that erring drivers tend to drive more carefully at the sight of police cars. Police hope that the plan will reduce accidents by around 10%.

All the police vehicles will be equipped with the latest state-of-the-art electronic cameras and other devices. A helicopter will also be deployed, fitted with a long-distance camera to film offenders.

Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz, who was also at the press conference, said he hopes that eventually such operations can also be conducted in urban areas.

Cindy doesn't live here anymore

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Hairdresser Guy Shiber said he wasn't surprised to learn that the notorious Mossad agent "Cindy" owns one of the large villas in his community of Kochav Yair. The town is home to so many former and current members of the military and intelligence community, he said as he worked on a client's coiffure, that the woman who became world-famous for her role in the capture of Mordechai Vanunu would fit right in.

His only hope, he said, eyeing the woman on the cover of *Yediot Aharonot* with rather wild-looking curly blond hair, "is that our Hair Studio shop would be one of the places she'd go to first. She really needs a haircut."

In the aftermath of a *Sunday Times* article published yesterday, it is likely that "Cindy" is concerned about a great deal more than her hairstyle. The British newspaper detailed her life as a real estate agent in Orlando, Florida.

The paper said that "Cindy," whose real name is Cheryl Ben-Tov, nee Hanin, aged 37, "who zips about in a red convertible and sells time-share accommodation to aging Jewish 'snowbirds' migrating south for the winter, and lives with her husband Ofer, a former Israeli intelligence officer and two daughters, in a secluded villa close to Disney World."

The family owns a home in Kochav Yair, which is being rented out, it said. Vanunu revealed details of Israel's nuclear program to the *Times* 10 years ago.

During his stay in England, despite warnings from the newspaper to stay in the country, "Cindy," who said she was a beautician from the United States, wooed him to Rome for a romantic tryst - where Vanunu was abducted to Israel, tried for treason and sentenced to 18 years in prison.

This is the second time Ben-Tov has been the subject of unwanted publicity since Vanunu's arrest - the first newspaper reports of her identity appeared in 1988 while she was living in Netanya.

The journalist wrote that "speaking in fluent if deeply accented Hebrew, she did not deny her role in the affair. Her primary concern, she said, was that any story about her should not 'harm' her position in America."

What is most likely to harm her is

the article's implication that her real estate career is a false front. The article attributes to "acquaintances in Israel" that she "is on assignment abroad for the same employer as ever Israeli intelligence."

Intelligence expert Yossi Melman said the inclusion of an insinuation that she is still active in the Mossad is "a wicked, vicious, unsubstantiated hint."

"Uzi Machani, who wrote the story for *The Sunday Times*, is a former captain in the military intelligence," said Melman, an analyst for *Ha'aretz*, and co-author of a book on the Israeli intelligence community. "He should know better. She is not the first former intelligence military security operative who lives outside Israel and shows no evi-

dence that she is still active." Most of the details regarding Ben-Tov's identity, he pointed out, were published in 1988, and yesterday's article only revealed that she has two children and lives in Orlando, Florida, near her childhood home.

If "Cindy" is pressed to return to Israel as a result of the publicity, and moves into the villa said to belong to her family, Kochav Yair residents said she will be welcomed with open arms.

"Good for her," said Kochav Yair resident Guy Olainik. "She caught a spy, she helped the country. She deserves all the respect in the world."

"So we'd have another celebrity among us," shrugged a woman who identified herself only as Sara.

Vanunu's history

1954: Mordechai Vanunu is born in Morocco.

1963: Vanunu and his family make aliyah.

Summer, 1976: Vanunu responds to a newspaper advertisement, passes a technician's course, and is placed in the Dimona nuclear facility.

1982: Vanunu begins to study philosophy at Ben-Gurion University in the Negev and becomes involved in leftist groups.

1985: Vanunu is fired from the Dimona facility.

January 19, 1986: Vanunu leaves Israel, converts to Christianity, and settles in Australia, where he works as a cab driver.

Summer, 1986: Vanunu makes contact with a journalist named Gerardo through whom he connects with Britain's *Sunday Times*.

September, 1986: Vanunu arrives in London and meets a woman named Cindy.

September 30, 1986: Vanunu leaves with Cindy to Rome after telling his story to the *Sunday Times*.

October 5, 1986: The *Sunday Times* publishes Israel's nuclear secrets.

November 9, 1986: A government official announces that Vanunu is being lawfully held in an Israeli prison.

November 27, 1986: Criminal charges are filed against Vanunu, who asserts, "I do not regret my actions. I acted on behalf of mankind."

August 3, 1987: The Royal British Peace Center nominates Vanunu for the Nobel Peace Prize.

March 24, 1988: Vanunu is convicted of treason and espionage and is sentenced to 18 years in prison.

May 27, 1990: Vanunu's appeal is rejected.

January, 1996: Vanunu submits a petition to the High Court demanding to be informed of Cindy's fate.

compiled by Uriel Heilman

Child prostitution: Not just in other countries

By NENA KEMON

The arrest last week of two men for allegedly employing a 12-year-old girl in their Tel Aviv brothel has lifted the veil on a growing scourge: child prostitution.

Once considered the domain of the Far East, child prostitutes have been found in increasing numbers over the last few years in massage parlors and parts around the country, according to a number of local authorities and people who work with youth in distress.

"One thing for sure is that last week's arrest is not an isolated incident," said Mike Naftali, head of ELEM, the Society for Youth in Distress.

Naftali said the market for prostitutes, including both males and females, has grown considerably over the last few years, as the country's population has swollen with foreign workers and new immigrants.

But it is not only foreign workers or new immigrants using child prostitutes, he said. "There has also been a growing legitimization for sex services. There are more peep shows, more massage parlors, more strippers. This [child prostitution] does not start from zero," Naftali said.

Naftali put the number of child prostitutes working in Tel Aviv area in the "dozens." But Chantal Damino-Holt, one of the heads of

SHANI, the Israel Center Against Sexual Exploitation and Contemporary Slavery, said there are some 500 child prostitutes, 18 and under, in Tel Aviv alone.

Damino-Holt, who said SHANI is a local clearinghouse for information on the subject of sexual exploitation of children in Israel, said that one-third of the child prostitutes are 15 years or younger, and that one of every five is male.

The police spokesman said police do not have figures on the matter.

Unlike the Far East, where many of the child prostitutes have been sold to pimps by impoverished parents, Damino-Holt said "many of those in Israel are runaways. They are taken over on the street by 'producers' who give them a home for a night, suck them in, and find them clients."

According to Damino-Holt, an extremely high proportion of child prostitutes were victims of child abuse or incest. Leah Gruenpeter-Gold, Israeli representative of the International Abolitionist Federation that fights child prostitution, said that international studies have shown that some 85 percent of child prostitutes were victims of sexual abuse. "They grow up thinking that the body is evil, or that there is no connection between the body and the soul," she said. "In some instances it is a way of punishing themselves."

In addition to "home-grown" child prostitutes, there is also a market in importing child prostitutes, Gruenpeter-Gold said.

Solo Lejbovitz, a Haifa resident who for years has been bringing Filipinos into the country to work, said that most of the young girls brought into the country for prostitution are from Eastern European countries, and not the Philippines.

Lejbovitz, married to a Filipino woman and the head of an organization to look after their rights, said there are some 20 massage parlors in the Haifa area that advertise in various newspapers. "It is no problem to call most of these and ask for a girl who is 14 or 15 years old," Lejbovitz said.

According to Lejbovitz, between 20 and 30 percent of the women from Eastern Europe brought in as nurses, au pairs or live-in-help for the elderly "end up working in other fields, including prostitution." He said that the problem is very marginal among the Filipino workers.

Lejbovitz said that one of the reasons there has been a rise in child prostitution in Israel over the last few years is the idea that "the younger the prostitutes are, the less likely they will be infected by AIDS." Furthermore, he said, many Israelis traveling to the Far East have come in contact with child prostitutes, and want child prostitutes available here as well.

Cameri Quintet ends final season

By PERRY STARR

The Cameri Quintet has quit while it was ahead.

Although the final show of the fifth season of the controversial comedy group was aired last night, there is some hope for fans. Co-producer Arik Bernstein admitted that the current style might change, but promises the group is not breaking up.

"After four years, there's a general feeling that the format has dried up, that we need something new," he said. "But we make a good team and we're saying together."

The team includes four or five writers, Bernstein and co-producer Ami Amir, and the show's stars: Keren Mor, Shai Avivi, Rami

Hoyberger, Dov Navon, and Menasseh Noy.

Bernstein says they're hoping to create a comedy series with characters rather than sketches. "I don't like to call it a sitcom," he said.

And if Bernstein has his way, it will be shown on Channel 1. Despite the ratings gap, he prefers being on public TV to commercial stations (the Cameri Quintet moved from Tel-Ad to IBA two-and-a-half years ago), because there is "much more freedom" to shock.

The Hebrew press has been mourning the demise of the Cameri Quintet. But Bernstein had some words of encouragement: "It's nice ending while we're still on top, it gives you a good feeling - and it keeps doors open."

Researchers explore soya diet for menopausal women

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem researchers who have shown that eating a diet high in soya derivatives reduces the symptoms of menopause without increasing the risk of breast cancer are now launching a clinical trial using soya capsules instead of food products.

Dr. Arnon Brzezinski, a senior gynecologist at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem, is seeking menopausal women who are not receiving hormone-replacement therapy (HRT) for the clinical trial.

A previous study put 145 women around age 50 on a special diet of tofu, flaxseed, soybeans, soy milk, and miso, which contain a high concentration of phytoestrogens. These are the plant equivalent of the estrogens given to menopausal women suffering from annoying symptoms, including night sweats, headaches, tiredness, vaginal dryness, hot flashes, and "blue" moods.

HRT also significantly reduces the risk of heart disease and osteoporosis, but some studies show it increases the risk of breast cancer, thereby deterring many women.

Phytoestrogens from soya reduce the symptoms and risks of menopause - although to a lesser degree than HRT. In lab studies, estrogens from plant sources have been shown to contain the proliferation of breast cancer cells.

Since many women who wanted phytoestrogen therapy did not like the bland taste of foods containing soya, Brzezinski and his team in Hadassah's gynecology clinic are now testing a food supplement of concentrated soya in capsule form.

Potential participants in the research are invited to call the gynecology clinic at Hadassah at (02) 6778425 or 6776321.

Food poisoning on the rise

By JUDY SIEGEL

The number of Israelis who suffer a bout of food poisoning from salmonella increases by an average of five percent a year, but proper food storage and hygiene can prevent this, the Health Ministry said yesterday.

Today, the ministry is marking World Health Day, whose theme - set by the World Health Organization - is the prevention of infectious diseases transmitted through food.

Last year, there were 39 reported outbreaks of gastrointestinal infections and poisoning transmitted via food or water, with 1,001 people becoming ill. In nearly two-fifths of the cases, the source of salmonella was meat, chicken or eggs.

According to the ministry, the increase is due to changing cooking and eating habits: Israelis eat more in restaurants and buy prepared food whose cooking must be completed at home. They also use the microwave for reheating and cooking, but do not always let the food "reach" temperatures high enough to kill bacteria.

Other tips: Prevent spoilage by keeping food in closed containers in the refrigerator or freezer. Freeze uncooked meat, poultry, and fish if they haven't been cooked within two days of purchase. Defrost frozen meat, poultry, and fish slowly in the refrigerator or quickly in the microwave, but not at room temperature, as

this gives bacteria a chance to multiply. Cook them at temperatures high enough to kill bacteria.

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WORLD

in brief

10 die in South Africa crash

NELSPRUIT, South Africa (AP) — Ten passengers were killed and five injured when their minibus taxi blew a tire, rolled several times and plunged into a 3-meter gully yesterday.

Police, who were forced to use a blowtorch to remove the bodies from the wreckage, said the dead included a 4-year-old girl.

Earthquakes shake Japan, China

HONG KONG (Reuters, AP) — A strong earthquake estimated at 5.5 on the Richter scale hit southern Japan early yesterday. The epicenter of the quake was near Japan's southern Ryukyu Islands. There were no reports of any casualties.

Meanwhile, two powerful earthquakes struck Xinjiang in northwest China yesterday, injuring at least 14 people.

The quakes hit Jiashi County, about 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) west of Beijing. In January, two strong quakes hit the county in rapid succession and killed 12 people, and there have been many strong aftershocks since then.

Yemenis free German hostages

SANAA (Reuters) — Yemeni security forces yesterday secured the release of four German hostages, after firing artillery shells near their abductors' hideout, and arrested the kidnappers.

Security forces which had been besieging the kidnappers' hideout in al-Mehjezah area of Marib province in eastern Yemen fired a few artillery shells close to the rugged mountain hideout, forcing some of the kidnappers to flee.

It was the first time Yemeni security forces used military force to gain the release of hostages.

Rollerblade speed record set

BONN (Reuters) — An engineering student on rollerblades claimed a world speed record after holding onto the back of a sports car as it reached 246 km per hour. Dirk Auer, 25, wearing a crash helmet, leather motorcycle kit and four-wheel in-line skates, clung to a specially built rack on the back of a 550-horsepower Porsche as it raced around the 2,000-metre Hockenheim track.

Wind and rain prevented Auer, from Gross-Gerau near Frankfurt, from reaching his planned 300 kph.

Mobutu olive branch as talks start

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — Zaire peace negotiations got underway in earnest yesterday at a secret location somewhere in South Africa, after "organizational" delays. In an apparent bid for conciliation, Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko told a South African newspaper rebel leader Laurent Kabila was a "nationalist patriot" and urged him to make peace for the good of the country.

But analysts said it was difficult to see how the two sides could achieve a compromise that would permit a ceasefire in the six-month-old civil war.

Shuttle mission heads for early end

CAPE CANAVERAL (Reuters) — It appeared increasingly likely yesterday that Columbia's 16-day science mission would be cut short because of a troublesome shuttle power generator. Switching off a faulty electricity generator, one of three aboard Columbia, would force the space agency to bring the shuttle home tomorrow afternoon. The shuttle can land safely on two working fuel cells and could probably limp home on one if necessary.

Islamists kill 80 in Algeria

PARIS (Reuters) — Moslem rebels massacred more than 80 villagers in Algeria, slaughtering some with chainsaws and dousing others in burning petrol during the weekend, newspapers said yesterday.

In the worst attack in the five years of Algeria's violence, rebels exterminated 52 inhabitants of Thalit village in Medea province, 70 km southwest of Algiers, said *El Watan* newspaper.

About 40 rebels armed with axes, daggers and swords ringed the hamlet and moved in to kill everyone there, the paper added.

Liberte newspaper said 52 people in the community had their throats slit, with only one person escaping.

In another raid, more than 40 gunmen armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and shotguns and led by Algeria's ruthless Armed Islamic Group chief Antar

Zouabri hacked to death 15 villagers in Amroussa village in Blida province, 50 km south of Algiers.

"The assailants broke into seven houses and cut up 15 people, including seven women and three children, with a chainsaw," survivors from Amroussa said.

It said some people who tried to flee were doused with petrol and set ablaze.

"My neighbor hid under a car, but was spotted. They set fire to the vehicle and he couldn't get out. He died there," the paper quoted a survivor as saying.

Another survivor said: "They killed my nephew in front of his mother, then one of them fired several times at his sister. Before they left, they set fire to the house."

Liberte said survivors loaded their belongings into vans and left the village.

In another killing, the newspaper said five

civilians had their throats cut and seven were abducted in Sidi Naamane in Tizi-Ouzou province, 90 km east of Algiers.

Moslem rebels cut the throats of four family members near the coastal town of Moretti, 40 km west of Algiers, said *El Watan*.

Near Beni Slimane town, 90 km southeast of Algiers, rebels erected a roadblock and killed an unspecified number of passengers of vehicles, it added.

"They intercepted cars, picked up passengers and shot them dead at point blank range," said *El Watan*.

El Watan, calling the last few days a "bloody weekend," said more than 80 people have been killed in massacres and attacks on Thursday and Friday.

The weekend was one of the most deadly during the five years of Algeria's vio-

lence locking Moslem rebels against government forces.

The killings came after the Algerian army reportedly killed more than 100 Moslem rebels the previous weekend near Tizi-Ouzou.

The army and security forces are out in force carrying out search operations against Moslem rebels across the country ahead of Algeria's June 5 general elections.

Radical Islamists called on the country's citizens to boycott the poll saying it would be neither free nor fair.

Algeria has been without an elected parliament since January 1992, when the authorities cancelled a general election in which Moslem fundamentalists had taken a commanding lead.

Violence erupted shortly afterwards and about 60,000 people have been killed.



Laughing at AIDS

Prostitutes in Bombay's red-light district take part in a laughter competition organized by the Indian Health Organization yesterday. The IHO is leading an AIDS awareness campaign in the city's red-light areas to educate prostitutes about prevention of and care for the disease.

(Reuters)

India bomb kills 2

CHANDIGARH, India (Reuters) — A crude bomb planted by suspected Kashmiri militants exploded on a bus in the northern Indian state of Punjab yesterday, killing two people and injuring 14, police said.

Jarnail Singh Chahal, a senior Punjab police official, said the explosion took place at the town of Pathankot, about 200 km north of Punjab state capital Chandigarh and near the state's northern border with Jammu and Kashmir state.

The Jammu and Kashmir public transport bus was at a bridge in Pathankot heading for Jammu when the device went off, he said. One person was killed on the spot and another died later in hospital.

"We suspect it to be the handiwork of some Kashmiri militant as the modus operandi has been similar to earlier blasts at Ambala railway station and outside Jalandhar railway station," he said.

"We have sent a team of scientists and forensic experts to establish the make and potency of the bomb," Chahal added.

Pathankot is near Punjab's border with Jammu and Kashmir state and also near the international border with Pakistan.

Saudi bomb suspect admits Hizbullah ties

OTTAWA (Reuters) — A Saudi dissident arrested by Canada admitted to having been a member of the Saudi branch of the Hizbullah group linked by Canadian intelligence to last June's bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 U.S. airmen, the *Toronto Star* reported this weekend.

The newspaper said the

Shi'ite Moslem dissident, Hani Abdel-Rahim Hussein Sayegh, 28, made the admission in a prison interview Friday with the *Star*.

Canada arrested Sayegh in Ottawa last month and charged him with having been a driver involved in giving the go-ahead signal for the massive truck bomb last June 25 in eastern Saudi Arabia. It said it had reasonable grounds to believe he was a member of Saudi Hizbullah, which it said orchestrated the bombing.

"I was with them in the past and had some disagreement with them and quit," the *Star* quoted Sayegh as saying of the group.

He again denied having participated in the bombing, but appeared to have changed his line on where he was on the day of June 25.

Sayegh, clean-cut and quiet-spoken, had told reporters that he had been in self-imposed exile in Syria at the time and denied links

with any terrorist organizations.

But the *Star* quoted him as saying he was with his Saudi wife in the city of Qom, the main Shi'ite learning center in Iran, on the day of the bombing. He said he learned about the attack from a broadcast on Iranian television.

"I am innocent and I am not scared of anything," the *Star* quoted him as saying.

He said he had been scared to admit, when he arrived in Ottawa last August, that he had been to Iran since he was afraid it would affect his application to be a refugee from persecution by the Saudi government, ruled by Sunni Moslems.

"Now is the time to tell the truth," he said.

The Canadian intelligence service, in papers released last month through the Canadian federal court system, asserted that Hizbullah had an "infrastructure in Canada that can assist and support terrorists

seeking a safe haven in North America."

It said Hizbullah members in Canada receive and comply with direction from the Hizbullah leadership in Lebanon.

The papers referred to a 1994 Federal Court case in which Mohammad Hussein al-Husseini admitted to being a member of Hizbullah and to that group operating in Canada.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation said last month it wanted to question Sayegh on the bombing, and the *Star* said an FBI team was now in Canada hoping to interview him.

Admitting being a member of a terrorist organization would normally be enough to deport Sayegh. But it was not clear whether this would be to Saudi Arabia, the United States or another destination if this were to happen.

Sayegh is due to appear before the Federal Court in Ottawa April 28.

Iran protests Uruguay beating

TEHERAN (AP) — Iran yesterday summoned Uruguay's ambassador to protest an attack by two armed men on an official in the Iranian embassy in Montevideo.

The Foreign Ministry called for better security around the Iranian embassy and asked Ambassador Marcial Birriel Iglesias of Uruguay to try to push ahead efforts to arrest the attackers.

The two assailants, armed with revolvers and explosives, entered the embassy Friday, beat an Iranian official and fled.

Ali Sarmadi, Iran's ambassador to Montevideo, the Uruguayan capital, was quoted as saying the masked men want-

ed to kill him and blow up the embassy.

"Nobody but the Zionists could do something like this, but the Uruguayan authorities will have to confirm that," Sarmadi said.

Uruguay neighbors Argentina, which witnessed anti-Jewish bombings in 1992 and 1994. The 1992 bombing of the Israeli embassy in the capital Buenos Aires killed 29 people and injured more than 200. In 1994, a bomb exploded in a Jewish cultural center, killing more than 85 people and injuring at least 250.

Israel and the US say Iran was behind the attacks, though the Iranians deny this.

Luxembourg trainwreck claims life

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — A passenger and freight train collided head-on in Luxembourg yesterday, killing one person and injuring nearly 30, seven of them seriously.

The passenger train, travelling at around 120 kmh, hit the freight train about 1.5 km south of Luxembourg city station early in the morning.

The driver of the passenger train was killed instantly. The injured were rescued by firemen and taken to hospitals in Luxembourg and Esch-sur-Alzette, a police spokesman said.

Two wagons of the goods train, which was carrying butane gas and bromine among its load, were derailed but no chemicals escaped.

Sudan rebel chief defects

KHARTOUM (Reuters) — Sudan said yesterday a commander with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had left the group and asked for peace with the government.

The official news agency SUNA said Major Nikrona Magar Ashiek, a commander in the Lakes and Upper Nile areas in southern Sudan, defected.

Federal Rule Chamber Minister Ali al-Haj Mohammad said Ashiek's defection was "a big gain for the peace march in the country," SUNA reported.

Ashiek was a former communications minister in the SPLA.

"It is important that Commander Ashiek has joined the peace process as he was one of the leading commanders of Garang's movement and Garang's assistant for military operations," Mohammad said.

SUNA quoted Ashiek as saying the SPLA was without goals.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 for greater autonomy or independence for the Christian and animist south from the Moslem and Arabized north.

US Moslems kick up fuss over 'disrespectful' shoe

WESTBURY, New York (Newsday) — Nike wanted a logo for its Summer Hoops shoes that suggested heat, summer and burning up the courts.

But a Moslem group in New York is burning up instead, because it says the flaming letters that spell "air" on the logo closely resemble the name for God in Arabic. The Islamic Center of Long Island is calling for a boycott of Nike products unless the company apologizes, recalls the shoes and changes the design.

"The shoe is the filthiest part of clothing because you step everywhere," said Ghazi Khankan, interfaith communications director of the center, based in Westbury. "Whether you are Moslem, Jew or Christian, to step on the name of Allah is sacrilege."

But Beaverton, Oregon-based Nike says it already has addressed the problem. The design now drawing fire from some Moslems is a modification of the original logo, which connected the letters in script, it said.

"The new, changed logo design separates the 'A' from the 'IR,' thus producing a logo that cannot be con-

fused with any other word," the statement reads.

Spokeswoman Vichier Corpuz said sample shoes with the original design raised warning flags in the company's Eastern European office, and it was immediately changed.

"We caught it in time," she said. "We have expressed our sensitivity to the Moslem community by not issuing a design that resembled the word 'Allah' in Arabic."

But that change is not enough, said Moslem Arshad Majid of Long Island, who called the attention an ineffective, "small gesture."

The Air Baki, Air Meli, Air Grill and Air B-Que shoes, with the controversial logo on the heel and sole, hit stores around the US this month.

Last week, the Islamic group sent Nike a petition with 1,000 signatures demanding action by the company.

"They didn't even send an apology," Khankan said. He said the community would call on the buying power of nine million Moslem Americans, if necessary. "On a hat, it would be OK," said Farooq Khan, who is on the center's board. "On a shoe, it's a sign of disrespect."

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A voice of her own

By MICHAEL AZEVEDO

At the age of eight, Barbara Schlick went to see Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and was immediately hooked. "I just knew I had to be a singer," says the singer, who was born in Bavaria and now resides in Cologne.

Opera, however, has never figured prominently in her career. "I developed in another way. Once in a while I miss it because the opera I did do I loved. I could have done more but I felt free in the concert repertoire."

Schlick, who has performed here several times singing mainly Bach, returns later this week for another series of Bach concerts. She has made a very conscious



Barbara Schlick: "Everyone has to sing with their own personality."

decision to perform mainly with period instruments or with modern instrument ensembles. "I'm interested in how the music sounded. This is where I found a lot of freedom for what I can do."

Schlick, however, does not limit her repertoire to baroque. "I also do romantic music, some modern music and I did some medieval music. But I mainly sing baroque, pre-classical, classical, and early romantic music, from Monteverdi to Mendelssohn. And everything I do with period instruments."

And, above all, she enjoys singing Bach in churches. Schlick sings regularly in all the major music centers and festivals, and her discs are selling in huge numbers across the world. "I feel a greater freedom when I record. I can repeat what I need and I can be more relaxed in the studio."

Schlick has begun to teach as well, although she admits, somewhat reluctantly. "Singing is a lively and joyful thing, teaching music is much more exhausting. But I have something to say so maybe it's good to say it." And what does she tell her students? "I prepare the technical ground because without it you can't be expressive, and then I let the personality of the student take over. Everyone has to sing with their own personality. I always did."

"Would Schlick recommend such a lifestyle to young people? "I can only say that if I would have another life, I would do the same again." But, she says, "one lifetime is not enough to do everything I would like. I want to paint more, and family life is not easy."

Barbara Schlick sings two Bach cantatas with the Israel Camerata Rehovot, Thursday 13 in Tel Aviv and April 15 in Jerusalem.



A Bull's screen debut

The Chicago Bulls' Dennis Rodman (accompanied by Stacy Yarbough) arrives for the world premiere of his first movie 'Double Team' at Chicago's McClurg Court Cinemas last week. The action-espionage thriller also stars Jean-Claude Van Damme and Mickey Rourke. (AP)

A nymphet's golden years

Goldie Hawn is scanning newspaper headlines in a low-cut, skin-tight black cat suit and thigh-high leather boots. Only the tiny pair of reading glasses perched on Hawn's nose is evidence that the veteran actress is now celebrating her fourth decade in show business. Hawn tucks away the glasses and then leans forward in her chair, as if to tell a secret.

"I'm back," she purrs sarcastically. "I'm back and I'm bad." Indeed. The 51-year-old actress has resurfaced from a four-year dry spell to follow up the wildly successful *First Wives Club* with the Woody Allen musical comedy *Everyone Says I Love You*. The new role happily returns the comedian to her stage roots.

A dancer at the age of three, Hawn made her professional debut hoofing the cancan at the 1964 New York World's Fair.

"Dancing is the one thing I studied every day," she says. "That was my dream. It certainly wasn't to be a movie star."

She also waited decades to be able to sing again. So when Hawn belted out her audition for *Everyone Says I Love You*, Woody Allen looked stunned.

"He went crazy. He didn't know I could sing," she says.

He came over and said, "Oh God, you really have a voice!" Then he told her not to overdo it. "So I sang it more simply, and more talky, and I didn't hold onto notes as much. And that was good. But the other part of me was saying, 'Dammit, I finally get a chance to sing, and now I have to tone it down.'"

The irony isn't lost on Hawn, who's been asked to ham it up for most of her career.

Hawn has nearly 30 movie credits as an actress and producer. In



Goldie Hawn: "I'm back and I'm bad."

an industry in which nymphets don't usually age very well, Hawn is a survivor.

"There is a sense of anxiety that comes with success. It's much

more difficult to deal with than failure. I've seen it happen with my friends. They get successful and then they get the psychiatrist." Her movies have ranged from Steven Spielberg's debut 1974 drama, *The Sugarland Express*, to the 1980 hit comedy *Private Benjamin*, to the 1990 shoot-em-up *Bird on a Wire*, with Mel Gibson.

Hawn's roles have evolved in the last four decades from the downtown kook to the strong, sexy professional to the middle-aged woman with all the answers.

There are only three ages for women in Hollywood. Babe. District attorney. And *Driving Miss Daisy*. Hawn laughs at the line, then strikes a philosophical note.

"Look, sometimes you catch the wave and sometimes you don't," she says. "You're just surfing through life." (AP)

MOVIE REVIEW

'Empire' strikes back

By ADINA HOFFMAN

Star Wars isn't the only '70s movie currently running a victory lap through local theaters. In January, 21 years after its release abroad, the distributors of Nagisa Oshima's acclaimed *Empire of the Senses* were granted permission by the Israeli Supreme Court to screen the film here, with the proviso that several small deletions be made.

Diehard free-speech advocates may be disappointed that the court's decision was not absolute; all things considered, though, the ruling marks a victory for artists and viewers alike, whose right to choose for themselves the nature of the films (and by extension, the novels, sculpture, dance) they want to create or to consume is protected by the ruling, which characterizes free expression as "the very soul of democracy."

"Body and soul" might have been more accurate in this particular case. Based on a true story, Oshima's movie is set in the 1930s in wartime Japan, and depicts in full-frontal terms the obsessive affair between a former prostitute (Eiko Matsuda) and the married owner (Tatsuya Fuji) of the inn where she's come to work as a servant. As their attachment grows more intense, the woman, who is something of a nymphomaniac, becomes reluctant to ever part with her lover and, after a long period during which the two of them garrison themselves in their bedroom, things take a turn for the sadomasochistic. The violence of their sex escalates and leads to a brutal climax: the woman, in a fit of orgasmic selfishness, strangles her lover and cuts off his genitals.

In its strict attention to composition, color, pacing and feeling, *Empire* is certainly an "art film," although it is, too, full of rough sex so graphic it makes *Deep Throat* look mild (never mind *Last Tango in Paris*, which is kiddie fare in comparison). The movie is also unusual for the equal time it pays to examination of both the male and female anatomies and for the basically female perspective it presents.

But tidy characterization of the film as either art or porn is difficult and possibly irrelevant to its appreciation. According to my *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, pornography is an "explicit description or exhibition of sexual

activity in literature, films, etc., intended to stimulate erotic rather than aesthetic feelings," an either/or definition that breaks down entirely when applied to a work such as *Empire*, one of the most sexually frank, but least

EMPIRE OF THE SENSES

Written and directed by Nagisa Oshima. Hebrew title: *Imperiat hakushim*. 110 minutes. Japanese dialogue. Hebrew subtitles. (Please note: there are no English subtitles.) Children under 18 not admitted. ID will be checked. With Tatsuya Fuji, Eiko Matsuda, Aki Nakajima, Melika Serl

arousing movies - in the conventional, peep-show sense - that I have ever seen. What renders the film so startling isn't the hard-core nature of the physical acts depicted or the crazed behavior of the characters, but the director's coolly levelheaded attitude to both. He presents the wildest sexual and psychological adventures equally free of the sensational and the mechanistic.

At the same time, the filmmaker imbues the most ordinary acts (a woman's barefooted climb down a flight of stairs, a meal eaten with chopsticks, a walk through the driving rain) with intense sensuality and, in this polymorphous perverse force-field, the usual categories become useless. Is the movie erotic? Is it aesthetic? It's both, in a radical way.

It's also sometimes exhausting to watch, especially toward the end, as the lovers' insatiability, well, mounts and mounts, and it becomes increasingly uncomfortable to watch them go at it. Oshima's technique is so controlled, though, this overload almost seems intentional, as if the whole movie were one long, extended dare - between the man and the woman, between the director and us - to see who will blink and look away first. Such iron-willed dramatic resolve brings the film much closer to the icily ordered, ritual brutality of Yukio Mishima's fiction than to the turn-me-on gimmicks relied on by most Occidental pornographers.

Empire of the Senses may have taken several decades to reach local theaters: the shock it offers, though, persists. The film is a harrowing masterpiece.

NEWS

of the muse

New hope for New Amsterdam

Disney chairman Michael Eisner last week opened New York's New Amsterdam Theater, hoping it will transform the faded neighborhood, which gained notoriety for its porn cinemas. On 42nd Street, the theater underwent a \$36 million renovation by Disney. It is "an expression of how great the city is," Eisner said. The New Amsterdam, built in 1903 and home to the Ziegfeld Follies from 1913 to 1927, opens to the public later this spring. AP



Michael Eisner

Bocca to hang up his slippers

Julio Bocca, star of New York's American Ballet Theater, who performed here last year, has just turned 30 and says that he will retire at 40. Meanwhile he has embarked on a parallel career as impresario, producer and actor. AP



Julio Bocca

Naming names

Decades after blacklisted Hollywood screenwriters were forced to hide behind pseudonyms, the Writers Guild of America has voted to correct the credits for two dozen McCarthy-era films. Among the 1940s to 1970s movies affected by last week's vote are *Born Free*, *Hellcats of the Navy*, *Inherit the Wind* and *The Robe*. AP

'Mr. TV' doesn't work for nothing ...

Channel 1's Chaim Yavin asked for \$1,000 to be interviewed on the same channel's *Meni Pe'er* talk show about his winning this year's Israel Prize for excellence in the media, according to *Yedioth Aharonot*. Yavin demanded compensation for missing a *Mabat* broadcast, for which he receives nearly \$1,000 for every program he anchors, the paper reports. The Broadcasting Authority found no way to compensate him, and the interview was canceled. Yavin said that "no one works for nothing." Jerusalem Post Staff



Chaim Yavin

... neither does Sophia Loren

The inaugural Madrid Film Festival opened this weekend with a promising lineup of movies but an embarrassing absence of stars. "Some stars wanted more money than a Spanish actress receives for an entire film production," festival organizer and film director Javier Aguirre said. Sophia Loren wanted 18 million pesetas (\$130,000), said the daily *La Vanguardia*, citing anonymous sources. The festival's entire budget was reported to be 200 million pesetas (\$1.4 million).

The festival opened with a showing of Rob Reiner's *Ghosts of Mississippi*, the story of the 30-year-old fight to see justice done in the murder of civil rights activist Medgar Evers. Other films showing during the festival include Nic Roeg's *Two Deaths*, and the Argentine feature *Eva Peron*. AP



Sophia Loren

Murder most foul (in English)

Agatha Christie's whodunnit, *The Mousetrap*, has been running at St. Martin's Theater in London's West End for 45 years. It came here in 1992 and played to full houses. It's coming back (with a different cast, of course) for eight shows from April 22 to May 1.

It's a typical Christie plot involving a young couple, an isolated mansion, a murder, a policeman, and a furious blizzard that keeps everyone, including the murderer, trapped together. If you know the ending, don't tell your friends. Helen Kaye

Murder most foul (in Hebrew)

Tracy Lett's *Killer Joe* opens at the Jerusalem Khan on Saturday. Ben Levin translated and directs this psychological comedy thriller about a cash-strapped father and son (Arye Tcherner, Yoram Yosefberg) with murder in their hearts. They hire a professional killer (Moti Katz) who agrees to accept a rather unusual advance in lieu of money. Helen Kaye

Israel's answer to the Tonys

By HELEN KAYE

There'll be joy, tears and excitement on Wednesday at the second annual Israel Theater Prize awards, the evening when local theater honors its own. Joy for honors won, grief for colleagues gone and excitement as the parade leads up to the announcement of the Best Production of 1996.

Altogether, there are 62 nominations in 16 categories including translation, a musical and most promising actor and actress. The Cameri Theater leads the pack with 21 nominations followed by Beit Lessin and Habimah with 14 and 13 respectively.

The Geshen Theater grabs the top production spot with 10 nominations for *Kfar*, Yehoshua Sobol's good-tempered fizzle of life on a moshav in pre-state Israel, including Best Play, Best Playwright, Best Director (Yevgeny Arye) and Best Actor (Israel Demidov).

The other nominations for Best Play are also by local playwrights, Habimah's *Har Lo Zaz* ("Unmoving Mountain") by Gilad Evron, the Cameri's *Voyager Voyelech*, director Rina Yerushalmi's biblical epic, *Tikvah Hava* ("Midnight Prayer") by



Gitta Munte (left) is a nominee for best actress for the title role in the Khan Theater's 'Anna Galactia.'

Rami Danon and Amnon Levi, and Shmuel Hasfari's *Shiva* (Mourning), a Beit Lessin production.

Life achievement awards will go to Orna Porat, Yossi Yadin and that great old lion, Shimon Finkel, and there'll surely be a moment to remember the late Shmuel Segal and Cameri founder Yosef Millo.

The ITP is modeled on its upmarket colleagues, the Oliviers in London and the Tony Awards in New York, both of which cover

only commercial theater. Here, commercial theater barely exists in the accepted meaning of the term. So it's the publicly funded repertory theaters that mainly compete for the ITP prizes.

They have the cash, the reputation and the public-relations clout that gets them noticed. The few commercial productions that nominate themselves languish like wallflowers at a ball.

Moreover, the Haifa Theater withdrew from the competition because it maintained that not enough of the Academy's 120 voting members bothered to come to Haifa to see the shows.

This causes a problem come voting time, as the choice of Best Actor/Actress clearly proved a year ago.

Last year's deserved Best Play winner was Hasfari's *Hamer*. This year it should be Yerushalmi's *Voyager Voyelech*, but *Kfar* will probably get it with Demidov getting best actor as a prize for losing to Shuli Rand last year. Gitta Munte should get best actress for the title role in *Anna Galactia*, a Khan Theater production.

The ceremony will be broadcast live this Wednesday night at 8:45 on Channel 1 from the Noga Theater in Jaffa.

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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION: The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Romema, Jerusalem 91000
Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9527. CIRCULATION: 02-531-5610. Fax 02-538-9017. ADVERTISING: 02-531-5608,
02-531-5637-40. Fax 02-538-8408. TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamasger, POB 28398 (61283) Telephone 03-6390333, Fax 6390277.
HAIFA: 20 Nordan, Hadar Hacarmel, Telephone 04-8623166. Published daily except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine
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1992-1996 DAVID BAR-ILLAN. INTERNET: EDITION: http://www.jpost.co.il General E-mail: jpost@jpost.co.il Editorial E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il
Subscriptions E-mail: subs@jpost.co.il

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Mid-course correction

The United States is acting like a distracted parent who, not having the patience to determine what went on in the other room, tells the warring children who come running to complain to give in to each other. This may be a good strategy for gaining some peace and quiet at home; but it is a dangerous way to pursue a lasting peace between Arabs and Israelis.

In a dry run for today's meeting between President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Secretary of State Madeline Albright reportedly asked Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on Thursday what Israel would do to further the peace process in exchange for the Palestinians combating terrorism. Presumably, Mordechai said that Israel is abiding by Oslo, and is requesting that the Palestinians do so as well. US officials reportedly found Mordechai's response "completely unsatisfactory." In effect, Uncle Sam is saying, "Don't bother me with who started it or what the agreement says, just tell me how I can get some peace and quiet."

The problem is that there is no symmetry between Palestinian and Israeli demands. Israel is demanding that the Palestinians fulfill Oslo's explicit requirement that "both sides shall take all necessary measures necessary in order to prevent acts of terrorism, crime, and hostilities directed against the other" (Oslo II, Article XV). The Palestinians are demanding something that Oslo does not address — a settlement freeze.

Quite a trick, when one thinks about it — to demand with a straight face that the other side go beyond an agreement that you are blatantly violating, and have the US come along and say, that sounds fair to us.

To this, Uncle Sam might respond, "Well, life is not always fair, and besides, you, Israel, are bigger and stronger. Sometimes you just have to give in to your little brother."

Indeed, most Israelis understand that the peace process with the Palestinians is not symmetrical; that this is not a peace between two states, like France and Germany, but Israel ceding sovereignty to the Palestinians in exchange for peace. But it is one thing for the process to be asymmetrical, another for agreements reached to be only binding on one side.

This is especially true when, at every stage, Israel is giving up tangible assets in exchange for Palestinian commitments. Even if the Palestinians commitments prove worthless, Israeli territorial concessions are practically irreversible.

Initially, Oslo's burden of trust was mainly on Israel to implement staged withdrawals from territory. As these withdrawals were implemented, however, the burden of trust shifted to the Palestinians, who were expected to end terrorism and violence.

In this, the Palestinians have failed. More and more Israelis are now arguing that if the Palestinians cannot abide by their side of the bargain when Israel still holds many territorial cards, what will happen when this leverage disappears? Such doubts are compounded by a poll showing that support for suicide bombings among Palestinians is at an all-time high. When asked about last month's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv that killed three women and wounded a 6-month old baby and dozens of others, 48 percent supported the atrocity, compared to 37 percent who opposed it.

The American solution is, evidently, to impose new, extra-Oslo commitments upon Israel, in exchange for the Palestinians pledging to keep old commitments. In effect, the US and the Palestinians are saying Oslo did not go far enough: it should have prevented Israel from building in Jerusalem, or any area "under dispute."

The idea of a mid-course correction to Oslo should not be dismissed. Netanyahu's constructive proposal to accelerate final-status talks over six months, with a Camp David-style summit to wrap it up at the end, is also in the nature of a mid-course correction. What the US and the Palestinians should realize, however, is that the trade must be correction for correction, not correction for old business.

If Oslo is to be corrected by adding a settlement freeze, then Israel must be allowed a correction of its own, such as canceling the next two interim withdrawals. The effect of such a package deal would be to remove the two greatest sources of potential explosions in the peace process. Both are sources of extreme tension because, under Oslo, Israel may define its actions unilaterally. Even if the Palestinians worked to limit Israel's latitude without violating Oslo, these are intrinsically the most confidence-sapping areas within the peace process.

By correcting Oslo in such a manner, each side would lose the chance to improve its negotiating position by creating "facts on the ground" prior to the completion of final-status talks, but neither would compromise its position in those talks. Both sides would gain by improving the chances that final-status talks would not be derailed before they were even begun in earnest.

OPINION

Lions' den

YEDIDYA ATLAS

As Prime Minister Netanyahu sits down with President Clinton today, he should remember that he is not sitting with a buddy. He has walked into a lions' den, and he is to be the main course.

The Clinton administration has professed deep commitment to Israel's security and to the peace process, but its behavior indicates otherwise. In the last month alone, American "political pragmatism" has glaringly been the guise under which the administration imple-

As US Senators Joseph Lieberman (Democrat-Connecticut) and Jon Kyl (Republican-Arizona) wrote earlier this month to the *New York Times*, "The Jerusalem Embassy Act... became law on November 8, 1995. It states that 'It is the policy of the United States that Jerusalem should remain an undivided city... recognized as the capital of the State of Israel.'"

Clinton signed the bill into law himself. Yet his policy behavior implies an adoption of Arafat's position that Jerusalem is occupied territory, and Har Homa an illegal settlement. This was evidenced by the president's warm welcome of Arafat to the White House last month, while showing his displeasure over Israel's decision to build on Har Homa.

Watch out, Mr. Prime Minister: Israel is to be the US's sacrificial lamb

ments a unilateral Mideast policy in which Israel figures as the sacrificial lamb.

Official American policy accepts the Oslo accords as the basis for Israeli-Palestinian relations, and it is the basis for the administration's own policies in the region.

Oslo does not preclude Israel's building new neighborhoods in Jerusalem, or expanding Jewish communities (aka "settlements") in Judea and Samaria; in contrast, explicit clauses of the accords hold the Palestinian Authority to fighting terrorism, disarming private terrorist militias, extraditing terrorist murderers to Israel, and amending the PLO Covenant.

These Yasser Arafat ignores. Nonetheless, Clinton actively disregards even major Palestinian violations, while expressing his dismay over, for example, Israel's building in Har Homa.

Clinton's opposition to Har Homa flies in the face of a critical fact: US law now recognizes all of municipal Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

THE way the administration behaved over Arafat's "green light" to Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror is even more instructive.

Although Israel repeatedly gave the US clear evidence of this, the administration declined to intervene. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns even challenged Israeli veracity at a press briefing on March 18: "We have not seen any evidence that Chairman Arafat has given a green light to anybody to incite violence... I know there have been some statements by Israeli leaders... that there's been a green light given. We don't believe it to be true."

After the murderous attack in Tel Aviv, an embarrassed Clinton administration fine-tuned its position. The State Department apologized, citing a "misunderstanding."

But the White House apparently still fears that Congress will demand enforcement of the law forbidding contacts with entities involved in terror activities. How

Dry Bones

IF THE BLACKS WILL JUST STOP TRYING TO MOVE INTO HOMES IN ALL-WHITE NEIGHBORHOODS...

THE SOUTHERN REDNECKS WOULD STOP THE LYNCHINGS AND BOMBINGS AND CROSS BURNINGS.



UH... MR. CLINTON... WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST... IN 1997! OOPS! SORRY...

IF THE JEWS WILL JUST STOP TRYING TO BUILD HOMES IN JERUSALEM...



else can one explain Clinton's ignoring even official declarations by the Fatah Supreme Council after the recent meeting in Beit Sahur? These openly threatened violence against Jews living in "the settlements" (a Palestinian euphemism meaning anybody living over the "Green Line," which includes most of Jerusalem).

This is all the more remarkable considering that among the approximately 500,000 Jews living in these areas, tens of thousands are American citizens.

This is the first time an American administration has deliberately ignored threats to its own citizens, choosing to continue, as Congressman Peter Deutsch

(Democrat-Florida) noted last week, its "tacit and implicit support of Chairman Arafat."

Congressman Michael Forbes (Republican-New York) put it even more bluntly, blaming the administration for appearing to be "not as strong [as it should be] in [its] resolve to fight terrorism, particularly this kind of violence that clearly can be traced to [Arafat]."

Netanyahu should bear all this in mind as he sits down to chat with a smiling President Clinton.

The writer comments on Middle East geopolitical affairs.

Foolish step for a university

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

There was much to be disturbed about last week when a group of foreign students invited journalist Barry Chamish to the Hebrew University to deliver a well-publicized lecture on the "conspiracy theory" behind the Rabin assassination.

Chamish argues that it was not Yigal Amir who assassinated Rabin but the General Security Service, and that Rabin's driver Menahem Damit and security man Yoram Robin (who was wounded during the shooting) were in on the plot.

Chamish, who pooh-poos both Amir's confession and the findings of the Shamgar Commission, seems to be driven by much the same emotion that drives Holocaust deniers: hatred of the victims, and an unconfessed sympathy with the motives of those who really perpetrated the crime, and with the act itself.

What first disturbed one about the affair was the fact that the university authorities were willing to defend the lecture under the rubric of "academic freedom" and "freedom of speech," when the views of men like Chamish have as much to do with academic pursuits as those expressed by a mental patient who claims to be

Napoleon. The only academic aspect here is the psychological one, looking into the mental condition of those who seek to deny well-recorded monstrous events.

It also was no case of "freedom of speech," unless we determine that the concept includes the right to spread heinous lies; and that

Dictatorships, by contrast, thrive on disinformation, unfounded theories, and deliberate distortions of reality, and democracies must do everything in their power to defend themselves against these things.

Perhaps little can be done to prevent advanced information

When it condones a speaker who spreads heinous distortions in the name of 'free speech,' something is very wrong

this is something democracies can tolerate, irrespective of the social damage and personal anguish it may cause.

It is just this issue that needs to be addressed in any examination of the contribution advanced information technologies like Internet can make to democracy.

While clearly no democracy can function without a well-informed public, one of the dangers inherent in these technologies is that they can be used to spread disinformation of all kinds, as well as totally unfounded theories, like the one Chamish propagates.

technologies being exploited by the enemies of democracy. Nonetheless, one has the right to expect institutions like the Hebrew University to be on their guard and prevent their premises being used to spread any kind of lie or distortion.

Also disturbing is the fact that no right-wing students took part in the demonstration to stop this abominable event.

Why? Wasn't the mainstream Right as horrified by the assassination of Rabin as the Left? Hasn't it admitted that there are some "wild weeds" on its extreme

fringes? Isn't upholding the truth about the assassination a worthy enough cause in the eyes of future right-wing leaders? Is it only Jewish rights vis-a-vis Arabs and the murder of Jews by Arabs that warrants protest?

FINALLY, there was something very disturbing about the fact that foreign students, most of them Jewish students from abroad studying at Hebrew University for a year, should have decided that Chamish was a worthwhile guest speaker.

I have had occasion to speak to groups of foreign students, and have found them intelligent and eager to learn. They are, however, also vulnerable, since they do not always have the tools to distinguish between truth and lies, between legitimate views and fanaticism, between what is essential, and what is trivial or peripheral.

I suspect that there are elements who try to turn this vulnerability to their advantage. The university authorities should find out whether the invitation issued to Chamish was the result of such manipulation.

The writer is a political scientist.

The internal fences that divide us

DAVID NEWMAN

When I checked my E-mail messages yesterday, I found one from a neighbor forwarding an article she had downloaded from another list. It was about a lecture which was to have taken place at the Hebrew University last week.

Left-wing students and faculty demonstrated violently against the presence of journalist Barry Chamish, who had planned to lecture on a "conspiracy" behind the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

The writer of the article, who had gone to hear the lecture, claimed in it that she feared for her safety, even her life.

Prior to forwarding it, my neighbor commented cynically that this was just the kind of behavior that might be expected from the "so-called liberals." I mix with "liberals" stopped criticizing the right wing and the religious for being so anti-democratic and coercive, and started practicing what they preach.

With a foot firmly planted in a number of different worlds, let me try and compare the types of message and levels of tolerance I hear respectively from the religious world of the synagogues, yeshivot and religious schools which I sometimes attend and in which my children and neighbors study, and those of the universities and Tel Aviv cafes in which my professional and research contacts take place, and to which I am becoming increasingly attached at the expense of the former.

Each world displays an equal amount of intolerance for the other, each perceives the other as a threat to the existence of its own culture, social norms and ways of behavior.

True, the liberal left allows for broader debate and more questions than does the black-and-white world of the nationalist right; but it does not necessarily

or "medieval" (the religious right). As Israel's first 50 years draw to a close, post-Zionists of the secular left are locked in a struggle with neo-Zionists of the national religious camp over promoting their own, singleminded versions of ideological hegemony over state and society.

Our political parties have become increasingly segregated along ethnic and religious lines. Our school systems remain separate, and our army units are becoming increasingly ideological.

We have created internal fences and boundaries separating us from each other. The division starts at age five and, in some cases, doesn't finish till we are six feet under. And we raise our eyes to the heavens in surprise that — what?! — we cannot talk to each other, don't understand each other's values, and have, in short, created two, or even three, separate societies in one small country.

Ignorant of other sub-Israeli and Jewish cultures and unable to talk in their language, we display our intolerance by refusing even to attempt meaningful dialogue. It's far easier to be dismissive.

During our half-century of exis-

follow that it is any more tolerant. Israel's society has become increasingly heterogeneous and segregated. Each of its constituent groups believes that it and it only has the answers to political and social problems.

The national melting pot, an idea created in the 1950s by secular, strongly Zionist groups which conceived of themselves in much the same way as the national-religious perceive themselves today — namely as the ideological flag-bearers of Zionist Israel to the exclusion of all other beliefs — is finally showing itself for the myth it is.

ORTHODOX and secular don't understand the first thing about each other's beliefs. Each self-righteously describes the other as "lacking values" (the secular left)

tence as a state, we have used the threat of external and existential threat to wallpaper over the cracks of internal heterogeneity. It is, paradoxically, simpler to live with the discourse of conflict and existential threat. We are always united in face of war, terrorist outrage, or act of violence perpetrated against the state.

The removal of the conflict poses a new and difficult agenda. Many reject conflict resolution (call it a peace process if you will) because they do not know how to create an identity outside the discourse of "antisemitism" and "the whole world hates us."

Many of us are unable — of unwilling — to raise problematic issues like how the state should function on behalf of all of its citizens, Jewish and Arab, Zionist, non-Zionist and even anti-Zionist, secular and Orthodox.

In an effort to become just a bit more tolerant, to become a listening as well as a talking society, we need to dismantle many of those internal ideological fences. This means a single educational system, and the end of ideological army units, and it is the real challenge facing the state today.

For without some new, *modus vivendi* of "live and let live," one in which no one group attempts to impose its own ideological hegemony, we will eat ourselves up from within quite efficiently without any help from outside.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EL AL SERVICE

Sir, — We and our family have been frequent and loyal travelers with El Al for more than 20 years. We are not the complaining type of passengers, but the airline's service has deteriorated recently to such an extent that we strongly feel something has to be done fast by the El Al management and Israel's tourist authorities.

Take our most recent flight from London to Israel, a scheduled flight, not a charter. It being a night flight, we asked the stewardess for two pillows. "There aren't any," was the curt reply. The purser was no more helpful, nor did the word "sorry" cross their lips. Finally, one pillow was found.

From the bar trolley, we asked for a small red wine. None was available, nor white wine either. We opted for soda water, which was provided, but the end date for consumption was November 1996. Dintio: all soda bottles on the trolley.

Worst of all is the cabin crew's deliberate unhelpfulness and couldn't-care-less attitude. Phoning El Al offices in London or Ben-Gurion airport during normal office hours is also a frustrating experience.

El Al and those concerned are surely aware that paying passengers do have a choice when flying and that goodwill takes a long time to build up, but can be lost quite quickly.

JENNIFER AND ALLEN SANK

Herziya (London).

CREDIBILITY

Sir, — In a public address several weeks ago, the prime minister declared that Israel does not negotiate the closure of Palestinian Authority offices in Jerusalem; it simply shuts them down.

Since then, not one such office has been obliged to close.

Doesn't loss of credibility worry Mr. Netanyahu at all?

BEN SHUA

Jerusalem.

POLAND'S JEWS

Sir, — On March 30, you printed an article about squabbling in the Jewish community in Poland which has supposedly held up returning property to Jews in Poland. You stated that there are fewer than 5,000 Jews in Poland today.

Today, Poland's Jewish population, by conservative standards, is 15,000, not the figure you mention, commonly quoted during the communist era. There is a Jewish day school and kindergarten in Warsaw, youth clubs in five cities and active communal life in several more, with summer and winter programs all sponsored by the JDC and the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation.

Tragically, the reparation bill will not return all the properties to the Jewish community. A fraction of the total number of communal properties will be returned to the communities themselves. The situation is much more complex.

The squabbling is among old communist hold-overs. Jews who worked in tandem with the communist authorities then, and now still hold control over Polish Jewish institutions. (We spend half the year working in the Jewish community in Poland.) The squabbling among the old guard and the leaders of world Jewry is not as urgent as the need for a new school in Warsaw. Please write the Polish Ambassador and ask why the City of Warsaw has not given land to the Jewish community to break ground for a new school on land that was once owned by Jews.

J. BOOKSTEIN AND R.S. BOOKSTEIN

Jerusalem.

STONING

Sir, — According to your report of March 26, Fatah head Marwan Barghouti is quoted as saying "I don't think that stones are violence."

The gentleman should be reminded that death by stoning was a legal method of execution during the First and Second Jewish Commonwealths.

WILLIAM SIMON, D.M.D.

Tel Aviv.

REPREHENSIBLE BEHAVIOR

Sir, — One Saturday in March, a mob of 200 people "dressed in haredi garb," ransacked the building of Jehovah's Witnesses in Lod, totally destroyed the meeting hall and made a bonfire of the literature and Bibles, singing and dancing around it.

In her letter to *The Jerusalem Post* of March 27, Anna Rubin defended this action, saying that not the attackers but the attacked ones were guilty because they engaged in missionary work. I am not a friend of Jehovah's Witnesses, but since when is wrecking a place of worship and burning books the legitimate answer to someone else's ideology of which one disapproves?

In a recent letter, someone pointed out that "real" haredim did not desecrate the Shabbat by throwing stones or setting fire to garbage bins, as had happened in Jerusalem. If this is so, let the police, who were "unable or unwilling to arrest any of the perpetrators," awake in time and bring such assailants to justice. We hear of similar misdeeds of fanatic mobs in Moslem countries. As a survivor of the Holocaust who was in Berlin when the synagogues were set alight, I do not think we ought to encourage such behavior in Israel.

Kol hakavod to Haim Shapiro who wrote the reports (March 13 and 16) and to *The Jerusalem Post* who published them.

HEINRICH ISRAEL POLLACK

Jerusalem.

CREDIBILITY

Sir, — Dr. Robert Rockway of Tel Aviv (Letters, March 31) regrets the lack of Prime Minister Netanyahu's credibility. He points to the "record of broken promises" as the cause of the general lack of trust.

I cannot agree with Dr. Rockway. I feel that Prime Minister Netanyahu has kept too many promises and that this is what landed Israel once again in the international doghouse, and what is about to destroy this country's diplomatic achievements of the last 20 years.

DR. BERTHOLD WYLER

Jerusalem.

הכרזת העצמאות

Fat Cat Spat

Look Who's Carping Most About Capitalism

By DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON
I wasn't long ago that the most strident critiques of capitalism came from the left. Armed Zapatista guerrillas in the Mexican jungles and the fast-disappearing Socialists of Japan complained that leaving the world to the ruthless efficiency of the market not only made fat cats fatter and the impoverished poorer, but it also undercut human dignity and skewed national values.

They lost the argument. Save for odd corners of the world like Cuba and North Korea, the ideology of the market economy reigns supreme. Political leaders vying for investments from overseas cut their budget deficits and privatize industry to satisfy the most feared figure on the international scene: the bond-rater from Standard & Poor's, whose thumbs-down in the global coliseum signals the world's biggest investors to take their billions elsewhere.

Now the inevitable backlash to market-worship is well under way. But to really hear the excesses of capitalism denounced, listen to some of the world's confirmed capitalists. Perhaps fearful that the side effects of economic globalization are more severe than anyone thought, or that they could spin out of control,



Handy Jones

prominent members of the moneyed classes and their conservative allies are questioning whether markets have become too unfettered. The only hitch is that they can't agree on the nature of problem, to say nothing of what to do about it.

Evidence of this rethinking is everywhere. The latest meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland — which views itself as the world-class assemblage of the free-market elite — was devoted to ways of ameliorating the worst consequences of economic competitiveness. George Soros, the man who broke the British pound and assembled a \$2.5 billion fortune, seized the cover of *The Atlantic Monthly* recently with a rambling account titled "The Capitalist Threat."

The "uninhibited pursuit" of laissez-faire ideology, a perplexed-sounding Mr. Soros reported, results in a loss of equilibrium. Education and other features of civilized society that don't promise a quick return on investment get short shrift, and nations become "preoccupied with their competitiveness and unwilling to make any sacrifices for the common good." Mr. Soros does not

Continued on Page 3

Must a Juror's Mind Be Empty to Be Open?



Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

By LAURA MANSNERUS

A jury selection in the Oklahoma City bombing case began in Denver last week, some unsolicited advice about the process of finding good jurors came from Philadelphia. In an old training videotape for young prosecutors, a man who is now running for district attorney urged his charges to avoid blacks from poor neighborhoods, and he had this additional tip: "You don't want smart people."

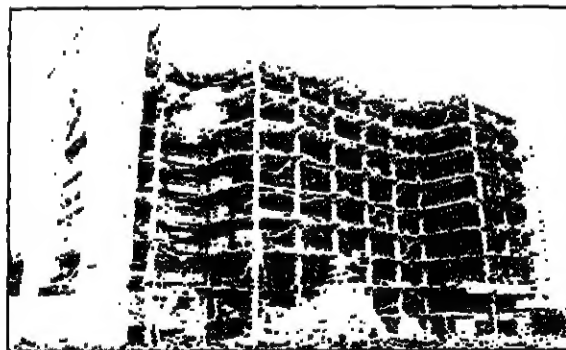
Many Americans suspected as much. Some people wonder whether the nation's sales reps and bus drivers, however competent and sensible, are up to the task of deciding complex cases. Others aren't that generous. "The entire American legal system is upside down," the comedian Dennis Miller said a few years ago. "We have people's lives being determined by 12 people in a room whose main goal in life is to wrap it up and get home in time to watch reruns."

Even people who find beauty in the justice wrought by ordinary citizens acknowledge that recent high-profile cases have been a public relations disaster for the jury system. "What's worth pondering is this boomerang effect of democracy," said Jeffrey Abramson, a professor at Brandeis University and author of "We, the Jury" (Basic Books, 1994). "The more we see of ourselves on the jury, the more we doubt ourselves."

So it's a sour public that watches while the Federal District Court in Denver looks for the dozen people among hundreds who can best weigh the evidence against Timothy J. McVeigh, the man charged with the bombing that killed 168 people in Oklahoma City two years ago. Acknowledging the absurdity of looking for anyone who hasn't heard of Mr. McVeigh, the judge and the lawyers are simply probing to find out who has been exposed to the most prejudicial flashes of publicity — asking prospective jurors, for example, whether they saw the bleeding children at the scene, or the defendant in his prison-issue orange jumpsuit.

If there's a principle at work here, it's not that ignorance is good; it's that partiality is bad. But sometimes it seems to amount to the same thing. If the best the system can do is use knowledge as a crude proxy for prejudice, doesn't ignorance then become a crude proxy for impartiality?

"I'm of two minds about this," said Mr. Abramson. "I love that we go to such epic lengths for impartial



Never saw this building? You could be a juror.

In the Oklahoma City bombing trial, the defendant is well known. So, the goal is to find a jury untainted by what else it knows.

jurors. But reserving one cheer, I think we've gone too far in this notion that the only open mind is an empty mind."

"Too far" is sometimes an understatement. When the jury was selected for the 1989 trial of Oliver North, a search went out for 12 people who knew nothing about Oliver North, which produced, well, 12 people who knew nothing about Oliver North. One person who qualified for service said she had seen him on television, but added, "It was just like I was focusing on the Three Stooges or something." Another woman, who was asked what she knew about Mr. North, replied, "I don't know, something about overseas."

And even in the vast tide of cases that present no problem with publicity, pretrial or otherwise, lawyers are looking for malleable minds. Naturally, that also

screens out informed and articulate people.

It is common wisdom that prosecutors, seeking conservative and conformist jurors, try to weed out analytical types. Jack McMahon, the would-be District Attorney in Philadelphia, put it more directly in his 1986 videotape, now infamous for its warnings against poor blacks as well as smart people. "Smart people will analyze the hell out of your case," he said. "They have a higher standard. They take those words 'reasonable doubt' and they actually try to think about them. You don't want those people."

"I'm not surprised that that's what they train them to do," said Thomas Nolan, a criminal defense lawyer in Palo Alto, Calif. "Prosecutors, many of them, say to the jury, 'So the evidence wasn't that strong, but use your common sense.'"

Defense lawyers are not above using the same tactics. "In a case that's heavy on scientific, forensic evidence, the defense is going to favor people who are less sophisticated about scientific matters and who are prone to conspiracy theories," Mr. Abramson said. "That's the classic defense approach."

But even before the lawyers can toss them out, people with responsible jobs are constantly escaping jury service. While Judge Richard P. Matsch, who is overseeing the Oklahoma City case, is turning out to be an exception, experts say most judges commonly excuse people with anything at all to do.

Donald Vinson, a jury consultant based in Los Angeles, said the supply of available jurors is typically "pathetic." While surveys of jurors show that their education levels are a bit higher than the national average, and while many states have eliminated jury-service exemptions based on occupation, Mr. Vinson says he sees evidence of neither. "I've heard judges say: 'This is going to take 10 days. If any of you have anything pressing or important, I'd be willing to excuse you. Anybody have a dentist appointment?'"

Complaints of low-energy, low-watt juries are nothing new. In "Roughing It," Mark Twain griped 125 years ago about the jury selection for a murder case in which anybody who had read the newspaper was disqualified. "The system rigidly excludes men of brains," he said.

Judge Jerome Frank, one of the century's most

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Jerusalem Post

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The World

Searching for an Enemy and Finding China

By STEVEN ERLANGER

WASHINGTON
SOVIET analyst, Georgi Arbatov, once warned that Mikhail Gorbachev was going to do something unforgivable to the United States: take away its enemy.

But Mr. Arbatov underestimated American ingenuity. In the last few months, a number of members of Congress, leading and following the opinion magazines and the think-tank symposia, have been working to invent a new enemy, China. Sparked by unconfirmed suspicions that the Chinese sought to meddle in the American political campaign, enough confusion and domestic politics now swirl around the topic of Beijing to make even a Cold Warrior's head spin.

The argument is that the United States could be cooperating in its displacement from Asia by helping China grow in wealth and military potential. This is a variant on the Leninist notion that the capitalists will sell the revolutionaries the rope to hang them. It also builds on the recurrent American fear of an Asian power rising up to challenge American dominance in the Pacific, a role played first by fascist Japan, then by Communist China, then by an economically booming Japan, and now, again, perhaps, by China.

But does that reflect the real relationship between China and the United States? A number of powerful thinkers in Washington say it does not. They say the fears presume a hostile relationship largely because they overestimate Beijing's capacities while hardly looking at all at China's weaknesses and poverty.

This is not to say that China is not a nasty place. Political dissent has been quashed there and democratic activists are jailed on flimsy grounds; the leaders are a narrow group of autocrats who use power ham-handedly and hand out multi-million business contracts to Boeing or Airbus for political gain; state-owned businesses only obey copyright agreements when threatened; the military is backward but ambitious and sells missiles to countries like Iran that Washington doesn't much like.

Behaving Badly

And it is not to say that China's growing influence, both economic and military, will not create problems for America and Asia. An aggressively nationalist China nursing past humiliations is going to be a major power in the next century no matter what Washington does.

But even those who are pessimistic about China understand that it is not a great power now, and that some of its nastiness stems from the anxieties of a narrowly based central leadership with decaying political legitimacy.

And there is a big difference between acknowledging that the Chinese Government behaves badly and believing that it represents a clear and present danger. Put another way, there is a difference between having faith that the United States will be strong enough to rein in China's ambitions and influence its behavior for some time to come, and fearing that China is already so implacable that America can only confront and contain it.

Despite Chinese denials — and the obvious fact that other countries, from Israel to France to Taiwan itself, do their best to influence American politics with money and espionage — the scandal has helped convince many Americans that China is an enemy.

But Winston Lord, who recently left office as Assistant Secretary of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, warns against such an approach. "It's inevitable and healthy to have a debate on China and its future," he says. "But



Charges of meddling in U.S. politics have made China seem threatening. In February, the police assembled at a meeting of a Government advisory body in Beijing.

there is a tendency to exaggerate China's threat and demonize it, almost out of nostalgia for the Soviet Union. We shouldn't assume China's hostility in the next century, which could be self-fulfilling and wrong, any more than we should assume China will be benign. We have to be firm, tough, seek cooperation and keep our powder dry, while shoring up alliances."

Zbigniew Brzezinski, a former Carter Administration National Security Adviser and no softie on Communism, says something similar: "Our fashion is to have the enemy of the year. China is big, it's large on the map, it's yellow, so there is an under-the-surface racist element, and it fits very nicely an obsessive state of mind. I imagine it will last a couple of years, because China is big enough to sustain this obsession."

At the same time, senior American officials say, China's rush toward development has created severe tensions for a post-Deng leadership that could just as easily spin China into rival provincial fiefs as create an

aggressive superpower.

Robert B. Zoellick, who was an Under Secretary of State for James Baker, says capitalism has improved living conditions for hundreds of millions of people, while undermining the legitimacy of their leaders.

Freedom and Tension

"The Chinese enjoy more freedom, choice and opportunity to learn about the world than they did when the United States re-established ties" 25 years ago, he said. He then lists the "momentous tensions" China's nervous leaders are trying to manage: between Beijing and the provinces; the mainland and Hong Kong and Taiwan; private and state-owned enterprises; urban and rural populations; and decayed political legitimacy and an increasingly pluralistic public. America needs a strategy, he argues, "that matches a China that will be in a condition of flux for decades, not just years." But the

current controversy, senior American officials freely admit, is putting a freeze on any important initiative in relations, making a vote for permanent favorable trade status for Beijing impossible this year. It is also threatening to postpone China's entry into the World Trade Organization, which the West wants.

One result of the fight is that the Clinton Administration, after fumbling through its own contradictions on how to handle China, human rights and trade, is now having to defend dealing politely with China at all. Its case was not helped by Vice President Al Gore's painful awkwardness in his public sessions with Chinese leaders, his failure to speak forcefully about human rights and his refusal to visit Hong Kong, as House Speaker Newt Gingrich cheerfully did.

But just as cheerfully, Mr. Gingrich acknowledged to The Wall Street Journal that China has changed. If some Republicans are searching for an enemy, he added, "I don't think China is that enemy."

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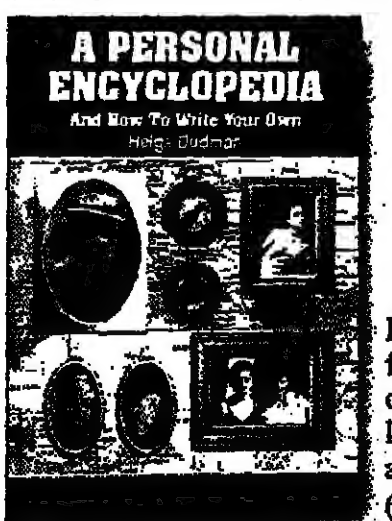


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The Nation

Divining the Sins of the Sinner

By GUSTAV NIEBUHR

THE last few weeks have been less than harmonious as organized religion again grappled with how the faithful should behave in a time of shifting values. Sometimes the definition of what constitutes sin changes with society.

Last Tuesday, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) announced that its regional bodies, or presbyteries, had voted to change its constitution in order to bar practicing homosexuals from ordination as clergy members, elders and deacons. Opponents have promised to work to repeal the amendment.

Earlier in the week, a small group of Orthodox rabbis declared that the Reform and Conservative movements were "not Judaism." They urged Jews to stay away from these synagogues, saying, among other things, that the rabbis violated Jewish law by allowing people to drive on the Sabbath. Reform, Conservative and some Orthodox leaders denounced the move.

Both these incidents followed on the heels of smaller controversies. Last month a Baptist church in Berryville, Ark., closed its day care center, the only one in town, reportedly concerned that the service encouraged women to work when God wanted them at home. In January, an Orthodox rabbinic board in Queens ruled that women's prayer groups violated Jewish tradition because they allowed women to read the Torah publicly. Orthodox Jewish feminists objected.

Core Beliefs

The details of these events are different and the issues complicated, but they all share a common theme: religious authorities trying to address fundamental questions of what violates basic boundaries — or what, to be blunt, may not please God.

In periods of social calm, answers may be easier to come by, at least within individual groups. But in a time of historic cultural change, attempts to define what lies out of bounds (beyond the obvious, like murder,

theft and lying under oath) can lead to bitter controversy and division.

"What religious communities typically have done," said Larry L. Rasmussen, professor of social ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, "is offer a fixed, universe of meaning in a world that doesn't add up on its own." But in times of societal stress, he added, "all the moral questions and doctrinal questions come up anew."

Disagreement over what constitutes sin (whether personal or social) can tear a

Religious authorities are addressing fundamental questions of what, to be blunt, may not please God.

religious group asunder. In 1861, the Presbyterians, unable to decide whether slavery violated divine law, split into Northern and Southern churches. Although the victory of Union armies in 1865 rendered the question moot, the effects of the rupture so lingered that the churches did not reunite until 1983.

Some opponents of the Presbyterians' Amendment B, which bars ordination of practicing homosexuals, have expressed satisfaction in warning that it could force open questions that congregants would consider long closed. Although the amendment is directed against sexual activity outside marriage, it concludes by stating: "Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained."

The potential problem is that the church's confessional statements, written over hundreds of years, call many things sin, including usury, gluttony and women performing

baptisms. Were the injunction against usury to be enforced, Amendment B's opponents say, the denomination might have to bar bankers from serving as church elders.

In the 1970's, some Protestants found themselves caught up in a debate over whether a divorce should disqualify a person from being a clergy member. Those who held that it should could muster Scriptural references to support their argument. In the Gospel of Matthew (19:9), for example, Jesus says that "whoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery."

But as the nation's divorce rate rose, and its effects were felt inside churches, some denominations softened their stands. In 1973, for example, the Episcopal Church changed its canons governing divorce and remarriage in the church; prior to that, in some dioceses, a priest whose marriage failed was expected to resign.

James Hudnut-Beulmer, academic dean and associate professor of religion and culture at Columbia Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian institution in Decatur, Ga., said the new standards on divorced clergy members followed from the experience of church authorities. "They knew so many good people who nevertheless had broken marriages," he said. "Through that compassion, some allowance began to be made for the divorced persons."

Change or Contract

All but the most separatist religious organizations must interact with the surrounding culture, critiquing and challenging it, and also finding ways to adapt. Religious authorities may wind up in the vanguard of change or at its rear.

How one responds to the larger culture from a religious standpoint depends on what one sees religion's role in society to be.

Rabbi Daniel H. Freedlander, who as director of programs for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations oversees educational work and other activities for Reform synagogues, boiled it down to two opposing ques-



From "The Complete Woodcuts of Albrecht Dürer" Would Adam and Eve get counseling today? Societal shifts force religions to adapt.

tions: "To what degree are we going to see religion as a bastion of stability in a world of change? Or to what degree are we going to see religion as a responsible agent of change?"

Professor Hudnut-Beulmer said he thought a positive spin could be placed on the controversies that inevitably occur within

religious groups from the clash of these two perspectives.

"It would be a very moribund church indeed that didn't get into these debates," he said, "because it would mean religion had so contracted to a private sphere that nothing the culture did could affect it, and nothing it did could affect the culture."

After the Shouting

A Minimal-Impact Minimum Wage

By PETER T. KILBORN

UP close, the thunder of last year's debate over the minimum wage seemed as portentous as the shots fired on Fort Sumter.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy called an increase in the \$4.25 minimum hourly wage "the overarching issue of our time and the election." The Republican House Majority Leader, Richard K. Armey, a former professor of economics, said, "Study after study demonstrates" that hikes in the minimum wage shut out the neediest job seekers. He vowed to fight an increase "with every fiber of my being." And Republican Senator Hank Brown of Colorado warned that the resulting jobless teen-agers would trigger "a crime problem and a juvenile problem of epic proportions."

The increase kicked in Oct. 1. Now, six months later, the Government's employment report suggests that the fulminations were mostly hot air. Last month's 5.2 percent unemployment rate was the lowest in five months. The new wage is a boon to some working poor. But the wage increase has had little effect elsewhere.

A Hill of Beans

Jared Bernstein, a labor economist at the Economic Policy Institute, which has union support, said, "Despite the vehemence of the debate, a minimum wage increase is throwing a pretty small pebble in a very large pool." Mark Wilson of the conservative Heritage Foundation agreed. "The economics of the minimum wage doesn't matter a hill of beans to anybody."

Looking for re-election last year, Congress and the White House ordered the first increase in the wage in six years. That upped the standard by 50 cents an hour to \$4.75 last October with another 40-cent rise to \$5.15 this July.

For a full-time worker who earned the old \$4.25, that means a raise of \$1,800 a year and an income exceeding \$10,000 for the first time. People earning up to \$5.15 an hour account for around 10 million of the nation's 129 million workers.

Most people's pay, however, is rising by a barely-perceptible clip, suggesting that the increase in the minimum wage has little ripple effect. Last month they averaged \$12.15 an hour, 24 cents more than in September and 47 cents more than a year ago.

As for looming unemployment, finding a job has rarely been easier. Since September, a robustly growing economy has pulled nearly two million more people into jobs, including 124,000 more of those dreaded jobless teen-agers.

None of this surprises most economists, who say that the law of supply and demand still works, that employers will hire fewer workers when the minimum wage rises a lot as it has sometimes in the past. But most say this latest relatively small increase in a very low minimum wage has a minimal impact on jobs or the economy. At most, a higher minimum might discourage employers from hiring an additional 200,000 workers while they raise the pay of many more.

So why the big debate? One reason was business as usual: Congress responds to pressure groups like labor unions, which favor higher wages, and groups like fast-



Cleaning up: Raising the minimum wage doesn't seem to have hurt the economy.

food chains, which hire most minimum-wage workers and want to hold down wages. This time a political skirmish became a brawl over ideological fundamentalism.

Having won control of both houses for the first time in four decades, Republicans wanted to take a symbolic whack at Government intervention in the economy. They tackled the orthodoxy that says all wages plunge without a minimum wage.

In setting a minimum wage, Mr. Wilson of the Heritage Foundation explained, government intrudes upon the freedom of employers and workers to negotiate the terms of a job. "Slowly but surely," he said, "they're taking away your liberty to mutually make employment decisions. I dare say that's socialism. It's government paternalism at its worst."

Battle of the Economists

To lend credibility to their ideology, both sides drew on distinguished economists. Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich seized upon the work of two Princeton professors, Alan Krueger and David Card.

Both economists had looked at employment in fast-food shops in New Jersey and Pennsylvania before and after New Jersey raised its minimum wage above Pennsylvania's. Employment in Pennsylvania didn't

change, they found, and it even grew slightly in the New Jersey shops.

Mr. Reich used their study to show that an increase would not lose jobs. Mr. Kennedy, sensing a popular issue, began pushing a wage rise to the top of the Democrats' election-year agenda.

Meanwhile Richard Berman, executive secretary of the Employment Policies Institute, a research group financed in part by the National Restaurant Association, sent payroll data from some of the same restaurants to two other distinguished economists, William Wascher of the Federal Reserve and David B. Neumark of Michigan State University. They came to the opposite conclusion, discerning a slight decline in jobs at the New Jersey restaurants.

For all four economists the operative word was "slight." But in political debate such distinctions became mountains and the economists themselves became targets of partisan ridicule.

"We tried to be cautious" in reporting the analysis of Mr. Berman's data, Mr. Neumark said. "Our conclusion was: this had to be looked at more." Lobbyists, though, blew their findings out of proportion, he said. "It was obnoxious."

Mr. Card said, "I've sort of had it. I've sort of decided I'm not working on the minimum wage any more."

Look Who's Carping About Capitalism

Continued From Page 1

advocate the bar-the-door approach to free trade that other billionaires — Ross Perot or Sir James Goldsmith, for example — have urged. But he takes the view that governments have to reclaim their power from the markets.

The new critics have their conservative cheerleaders, though some of those bring a different agenda. There is William Bennett, the conservative's minder of values, who worries less about disequilibrium than about the erosion of national decorum.

Hollywood's production line of sex and violence has been Mr. Bennett's easiest target, but now the debate has moved on to regulating the Internet — and made odd bedfellows. In defending the Communications Decency Act before the Supreme Court last month, the Clinton Administration found itself allied with the Christian Coalition and Senator Jesse Helms in support of the regulatory state. And it was fighting not only the American Civil Liberties Union but the United States Chamber of Commerce, which warned in a friend-of-the-court brief that the United States would put itself at a competitive disadvantage if it began regulating the ultimate expression of global free enterprise.

Echoes From the Past

None of these arguments is new; there are echoes of Tory conservative thought and the Progressive Era tame-the-oligarchs movement in all of them. What's surprising is that many of the new concerns come from the oligarchs themselves, who see that globalization is causing instability that could unmake the market revolution. And some come from conservatives whose rallying call in the 80's — shrink the government and save the markets — has turned into gospel. Even Bill Clinton says the era of big government is over.

But victory left the victors divided. Libertarians persist in defending the untrammelled markets. Patrick J. Buchanan and Ross Perot struck a different chord with arguments that economic integration, starting with the North American Free Trade Agreement, impoverishes working Americans and impinges on American sovereignty by letting "faceless foreign judges" review American laws challenged by our trading partners. Meanwhile, those who worry about income inequality, job insecurity and pornography on the Net talk about getting the Government to intervene.

The same divisions, and odd alliances, can be found wherever politicians, labor unions and business executives believe they have lost their ability to control market forces. Not surprisingly, political leaders find it hard to give up the power that comes from running, and interfering with, a national economy.

In Europe, it is no longer just labor leaders who argue that global competition threatens the Continent's social safety net. Now the chief executives of some of Europe's biggest industrial enterprises are voicing nervousness about the European Monetary Union, the world's most ambitious attempt to erase national boundaries. In Germany, some industrialists are protesting the strict budget-cutting requirements that are part of the deal for countries

that want to enter the monetary union. They talk about inflation and unemployment, but their real fear is that Europe's common currency, the Euro, will prove far more unstable than the German mark — meaning that Germany will be dragged down by lesser economies.

Then there are the South Koreans, who waxed enthusiastic about the wonders of global competitiveness in the 70's and 80's, as American companies moved production there. Now the same forces that brought suburban manses and sports cars to the industrial tangle of Seoul are moving to China and India, scared off by wages that shot up during the democracy movement. When South Korean companies rammed a bill through the Parliament that would allow them to move operations out of the country just as the Americans were doing, the protests grew so ugly that President Kim Young Sam had to go on television to apologize. The law is being amended.

"What we're seeing in the backlash overseas is a reaction to the American style of quick downsizing to become instantly more competitive," said Clyde Prestowitz, who heads the Economic Strategy Institute here. "For decades executives in Europe and Japan have been inculcated with the thought that they have a responsibility to maintain employment and social stability, and now they find this in direct contradiction to the global imperative."

So how much of this backlash is warranted, and how much is driven by the torrent of globaloney about economic integration? The answer is a little of both. Paul Krugman, the M.I.T. economist, says the importance of global markets is overstated because "punditizing about globalization is an easy way to get attention" at conferences like Davos. And politicians, of course, have good reason to throw up their hands and blame mysterious global forces for their national economic woes. France springs to mind.

But it is also clear that globalization's effects have been understated by many economists because they are maddeningly hard to measure. Laura D'Andrea Tyson, President Clinton's chief economic adviser until a few months ago, agrees with estimates that 20 to 25 percent of the growth in wage inequality in America comes from the global market, in which even a complex job can be done half a world away — say, having software written by an Indian engineer. Such nervousness could explain why Vice President Al Gore, backpedaling on the wonders of globalization, has fallen silent about the need to extend free trade agreements.

No One to Make the Rules

Ultimately, taming the excesses of a global free market is going to be next to impossible because no one can agree on who should do the taming. Who would mandate a minimum wage and create a Social Security system for the world? Who would tell India that it can't build car factories because there are already too many sport utility vehicles polluting the world? Who would rule that Washington should be allowed to regulate what children can see on the Internet, but that China should not be allowed to regulate what dissidents can say on it? These are the "disequilibria" dividing fans of capitalism around the world. They aren't going to get any easier.

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Joseph Jett: Scoundrel or Scapegoat

By SAUL HANSELL

THERE is an oversized desk calendar, used by many of his fellow employees, detailing transactions that are now described as fraudulent. And there is a taped telephone call in which a boss proposed to "wind up" the company's balance sheet. And there is an auditor's report that raised no alarm.

In a case that has produced a mountain of evidence, these are only fragments. Still, they are enough to give hope to Joseph Jett, a pariah on Wall Street.

Months after month, the former superstar bond trader at Kidder, Peabody & Company has tediously sorted through 429 boxes of documents, computer records and tapes, trying to refute accusations that he engineered an astounding \$339 million in phony profits.

Now Mr. Jett's tenacious three-year struggle is nearing an end. With an administrative law judge's ruling expected in the next few months, Mr. Jett will be certified as either one of Wall Street's great scoundrels or one of its most vilified scapegoats.

As he awaits the ruling, Mr. Jett and his lawyers offer up the scribbles of his former colleagues as confirmation that Kidder officials knew all about his trading strategies.

Considering the intensity of his public shaming when he was dismissed in April 1994, Mr. Jett has

been able to mount a remarkably vigorous defense. Just before Christmas, a securities arbitration panel awarded him \$1 million of his Kidder bonuses after ruling that the firm was unable to prove he engaged in "fraud, breach of duty and unjust enrichment."

The arbitration hearing and a trial last summer on the S.E.C. accusations have produced a mass of intriguing documents and sworn testimony, while subsequent interviews have filled in some gaps. At the least, the evidence adds up to an extraordinary chronicle of negligence by Kidder officials who were supposed to supervise Mr. Jett but missed one opportunity after another to halt his trading. Instead, they happily allowed his trading and generously rewarded it. Dozens of people were aware of a central component of his strategy, but no one, either out of ignorance or worse, objected to it as being based on an outright fiction.

After an internal investigation, a humiliated Kidder and G.E. acknowledged intolerable lapses of supervision. But whether Kidder officials countenanced Mr. Jett's activities, explicitly or tacitly, remains an issue — one that may only be settled when a judge decides whether to fine him \$20 million and expel him for life from the securities industry, as the S.E.C. has requested.

Until then, questions persist: Can Mr. Jett be guilty of fraud if he hid nothing, falsified no records and was

subject to several levels of oversight? Did Mr. Jett know full well that his trades were nothing more than make-believe? Or did he naively believe that the profits his computer reported had to be real? Kidder and the S.E.C. say Mr. Jett, through manipulative trading practices and by lying to management, concealed a computer accounting glitch that allowed him to report unearned profits. So illogical was Mr. Jett's trading, the S.E.C. maintains, that there is "no conceivable explanation other than fraud."

Yet some former Kidder employees furnish another explanation — that a relatively inexperienced Mr. Jett, now 39, truly believed the profit figures that flashed on his computer terminal. When Mr. Jett arrived at Kidder in 1991, he badly needed to succeed. He had already been laid off from one Wall Street firm and dismissed from another, after abandoning a first career in chemical engineering.

Not the best start for someone with an M.B.A. from Harvard and an engineering degree from M.I.T. Now he needed to draw on a reservoir of self-reliance and discipline.

Despite his previous missteps on Wall Street, Mr. Jett was an attractive prospect for Kidder. As an engineer, he would be adept at quantitative trading techniques, and G.E. was pressing Kidder managers to bring more members of minorities into senior positions.

Mr. Jett's new boss, Edward Cerullo, had a reputation for being steady and ambitious. Fortunately for Mr. Jett, his boss took risks, both with money and with people. He had nurtured some outstanding young traders, making the fixed-income department a powerhouse that accounted for nearly all of Kidder's profits. G.E. liked the money Mr. Cerullo's department was earning, but worried that it was too dependent on the volatile mortgage bond market. Kidder needed to develop other lines of business.

To Mr. Cerullo, former colleagues say, an instinctive solution was to find the next hot talent. "Ed was absolutely a believer in Supermen traders," a former trader at Kidder said. "Just because no one else could make money in a certain market doesn't mean that a Superman couldn't."

At first, Mr. Cerullo assigned Mr. Jett to the sleepy zero-coupon bond desk, under the wing of Melvin Mullin, a former college math teacher and the chief of Kidder's Government bond business. He taught Mr. Jett how to scan the market to buy bonds cheap and sell them dear, using a Mullin-designed computer system known as the Government Trader. One trick was to sometimes squeeze profits from the minor price differences between zero-coupon bonds and regular Government bonds.

Mr. Mullin's computer system was constantly searching for money-making possibilities in stripping or reconstituting bonds.

During Mr. Jett's first five months on the job, he made only \$417,000 for the firm, far less than the relatively modest goal of \$1 million a month that Mr. Mullin had set for him. In October 1991, Kidder gave Mr. Jett his first bonus — a paltry \$3,000. The message was unmistakable: shape up or get out.

In short order, Mr. Jett's profits started to escalate. In the first 10 months of 1992, he reported trading profits of \$28 million. Mr. Jett was awarded a bonus of \$2 million.

At the time, Mr. Mullin now explains, Mr. Jett's turnaround seemed to make sense. Mr. Jett was a hard worker, he said, who often arrived at the office earlier and stayed later than his co-workers.

As Kidder now calculates it, \$17 million of Mr. Jett's \$28 million in apparent profit was not from legitimate trades but solely from a glitch in the way its computer system processed the stripping and reconstituting of bonds.

With the flickering, touch-sensitive computer screens, Mr. Mullin's Government Trader system appeared to be at the vanguard of Wall Street's high-technology revolution. In reality, it was a silicon veneer over a patchwork of archaic computer systems based on software written before Neil Armstrong walked on the

moon in 1969.

The computer systems didn't take well to Wall Street's new, more complex inventions, and that goes a long way toward explaining how the accounting on Mr. Jett's trades went awry. Although Kidder had long been working on a new system, it never finished the job.

From March 1993 through the end of the year, Mr. Jett earned no less than \$10 million a month for the company. And when Mr. Mullin moved on to another assignment, Mr. Jett took his place supervising all government bond trading. By the end of 1993, Mr. Jett was made a managing director of Kidder, Peabody, named its "man of the year" and awarded \$9 million in bonuses on \$150 million in reported trading profits.

Among those raising concerns were some people on the repurchase desk, which was responsible for helping Mr. Jett assemble all the zero-coupon bonds he needed to carry out reconstitutions, often borrowing them from other firms. But the repurchase desk could hardly keep up with the pace set by Mr. Jett. Handcapped by Kidder's ancient computers, it resorted to using a heavy red appointment calendar to keep track.

Mr. Jett now cites the appointment book as evidence that he did not hide his trading strategy. Notations were made for thousands of strips and reconstitution trades to be settled weeks and months into the future, even though, as much of Wall Street knew, the Fed didn't engage in such forward trades. By at least one Kidder executive's account, as many as 100 people referred to the appointment book or were otherwise involved in the forward reconstitutions.

James Rizzi, a trader on the repurchase desk who was in charge of strips, raised an alarm in 1993 with David Bernstein, an accountant who functioned as chief of staff to Mr. Cerullo. But Mr. Rizzi said he was waved off.

"Since we were not settling any money, my concern was that they were paper trades," Mr. Rizzi testified at the S.E.C.'s fraud trial. Mr. Bernstein, according to Mr. Rizzi's testimony, responded that "he was sure these were not just paper transactions."

Mr. Cerullo also said he, too, periodically made queries about Mr. Jett's trading, but not because he worried about fraud. Any rapid increase in profits, Mr. Cerullo testified, was a warning of too much risk-taking. At one point, Mr. Cerullo dispatched Mr. Finer, the risk manager, to check into one area of possible risk — whether Mr. Jett was betting too heavily on interest rates.

According to Mr. Finer's testimony, Mr. Jett told him the profits were from three roughly equal sources: trading with customers, stripping and reconstituting bonds, and trading to exploit discrepancies between the prices of bonds and bond futures. Mr. Finer never verified the numbers.

"It wasn't my position to be satisfied or not," with Mr. Jett's answers, Mr. Finer testified. "I was asked to pose the questions. I posed the questions."

Mr. Jett cites another exchange as tacit authorization for his trading approach and the way profits were being credited to him.

In May 1993, he had a series of short meetings on the trading floor with Mr. Bernstein and Charles Fiumefreddo, a top accountant in the fixed-income division. The accountants, taking notice of Mr. Jett's forward trades, needed Mr. Jett's help in identifying them because such trades were supposed to be excluded from the firm's balance sheet.

When asked, Mr. Jett said most of his forward trades were reconstitutions with the Fed. Although Mr. Bernstein said he was unaware that such transactions were a fiction, he did ask what would turn out to be the right question: Did Mr. Jett get credit for a profit he hadn't earned the moment he entered a forward reconstitution?

Mr. Jett said he acknowledged an unearned profit on forward reconstitutions but argued that it was nothing more than advance credit for earnings on other transactions that were part of his broader strategy.

Mr. Bernstein's account is differ-



Joseph Jett, former superstar bond trader.

ent. He recalls that Mr. Jett said a reconstitution did not automatically create a profit.

Yet shortly after Mr. Jett was dismissed, Mr. Bernstein's comments were more in line with Mr. Jett's version. According to notes taken by lawyers hired by Kidder to investigate the scandal, Mr. Bernstein said of the profits, "We didn't view it as false, just accelerated." Mr. Bernstein says the quotation was taken out of context.

As Mr. Jett describes it, the accounting executives ultimately fussed only about the need to account for the cost of financing the transactions. Still, no change was made in how profits were tallied because Kidder's accounting system couldn't accommodate one.

After spending 400 hours reviewing Mr. Jett's zero-coupon desk in August and September 1993, Kidder's internal auditors did not do any better at detecting problems. They unquestioningly recorded that much of Mr. Jett's trading was in reconstitutions and that 20 to 40 percent of his desk's trading was on a forward basis.

By the autumn of 1993, G.E. had begun to look with dismay at the size of Kidder's portfolio of bonds. Worried about risks, G.E. ordered Kidder to cut back on its holdings, and it gave the firm three weeks to meet its target. Mr. Jett was told to reduce his combined bond holdings from \$22 billion to \$16 billion. Because of an accounting change, Mr. Jett's forward reconstitution trades now stuck out strikingly.

If Mr. Jett had reduced his position in forward reconstitutions, he would have incurred a loss. He instead resorted to a complex series of forward trades that simultaneously preserved his profits and complied with Kidder's new balance-sheet restrictions.

Mr. Jett and Kidder are now oddly in agreement that his new approach consisted entirely of paper trades, with the sole purpose of manipulating Kidder's financial statements. "We no longer had a profit motive," Mr. Jett said. "The trades became

more and more a massive juggling act."

Mr. Jett says he was ordered by Kidder to engage in the trading to deceive G.E. The S.E.C. contends that Mr. Jett desperately sought to keep a fraudulent scheme from being detected by Kidder management. The evidence on the issue is ambiguous.

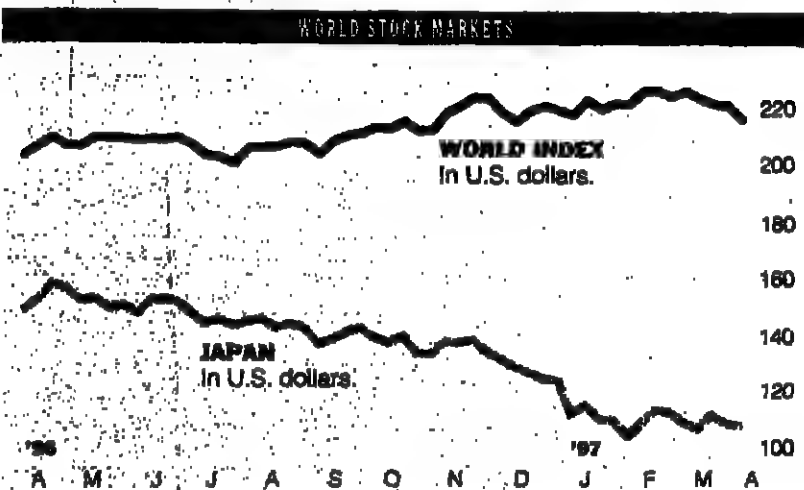
Mr. Jett describes the last three years as "a hellish ordeal" in which he was "lynched on the front page." G.E. blamed him for a \$350 million charge to earnings. Mr. Lynch, in concluding his formal investigation for Kidder, accused Mr. Jett of deliberately manipulating Kidder's systems. He was grilled dozens of times by Federal prosecutors, though criminal charges have not been filed. The S.E.C. filed its fraud complaint in January 1996.

"I have not been able to work in my chosen field," Mr. Jett said. "The hardest part of the last three years was realizing I was alone. The people who were in a position to speak the truth were not going to come forward."

Last year, Mr. Cerullo settled the S.E.C. charge of failing to supervise Mr. Jett; Mr. Cerullo paid a \$50,000 fine and was suspended from the securities industry for a year. Kidder paid him \$9 million in deferred compensation and severance. Mr. Mullin settled for \$25,000 and suspension for three months. Mr. Bernstein, who was never accused of any wrongdoing, was reassigned by Kidder when Mr. Jett was dismissed and is now a consultant.

Even when Mr. Jett's trading earned him lavish bonuses, his life style did not always reflect it. After his dismissal from Kidder, with practically all his savings frozen in a Kidder account, he lived nomadically, staying with friends.

With the arbitration panel's award of \$1 million in bonus money, Mr. Jett's situation has improved considerably. He has rented an apartment in the East Village and intends to start a private investment fund. He is also writing a book and hopes to sell his story to Hollywood.



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE		IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.	
Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Index	YTD % Chg.
Australia	214.18	-2.9	17	-3.5	19	183.50	-1.2
Austria	181.16	-2.9	16	-4.6	21	157.78	3.8
Belgium	232.61	-2.3	11	2.2	7	198.05	11.0
Brazil	244.04	3.0	2	28.7	1	475.31	31.0
Britain	277.85	-1.4	8	-1.9	16	391	2.4
Canada	183.28	-2.7	14	-3.8	18	184.50	-2.1
Denmark	354.93	-3.3	19	0.8	9	307.86	9.0
Finland	245.48	-5.0	24	-0.1	11	259.96	8.7
France	214.51	-4.8	22	0.3	10	190.09	8.9
Germany	196.86	-4.8	23	3.5	5	171.34	12.6
Hong Kong	444.89	-2.4	12	-12.3	27	442.58	-12.1
Indonesia	223.62	-3.8	20	-2.0	17	329.79	-0.3
Ireland	326.03	-1.5	9	-0.9	15	291.53	6.5
Italy	85.73	0.3	4	2.8	6	106.23	12.1
Japan	112.96	-0.7	6	-12.5	28	88.64	-6.4
Malaysia	567.18	-8.5	26	-6.0	22	543.15	-7.4
Mexico	1,333.84	-2.5	13	9.3	3	11,617.97	10.7
Netherlands	335.62	-4.6	21	-0.2	12	288.34	-8.6
Norway	83.93	-1.0	7	-6.6	24	64.55	-6.4
New Zealand	283.93	-5.8	27	-0.5	14	271.21	5.9
Norway	185.15	-5.2	25	-9.1	25	243.28	-8.9
Philippines	393.21	1.0	3	6.3	23	260.37	-3.8
Singapore	358.56	-0.6	5	12.8	2	345.68	6.2
South Africa	212.13	-2.9	18	-3.5	20	227.39	5.0
Spain	419.62	-5.6	28	-0.5	13	471.93	10.7
Sweden	253.62	-2.8	15	6.3	4	225.14	13.4
Switzerland	84.87	5.5	1	-11.4	26	85.60	-10.2
Thailand	307.60	-2.1	10	1.9	8	307.60	1.9
United States							

COMPOSITE INDICES						
Europe	240.51	-3.0	-0.4	2.83	219.55	7.4
Pacific Basin	131.82	-1.5	-11.3	1.42	102.17	-6.7
Europe/Pacific	177.13	-2.3	-5.0	2.21	146.49	0.8
World	220.83	-2.2	-1.5	2.08	196.88	1.4

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1996 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

CURRENT		Friday		Last Friday		Week % Chg.		Year Ago	
Exchange rate									
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar		124.29		123.93		+0.29		107.65	
German marks to the U.S. dollar		1.6853		1.6763		+0.54		1.4845	
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar		1.3921		1.3813		+0.78		1.3568	
U.S. dollars to the British pound		1.6346		1.6317		+0.18		1.5290	

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets. Exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

UPS AND DOWNS

March 31-April 4: Even With a Friday Rally, the Dow Falls by 214 Points for the Week

PRICES	
DOMESTIC EQUITIES	
Broad market	Down 2.06%
S. & P. 500 index	757.90
Blue chips	Down 3.18%
Dow 30 industrials	6,526.07
Small capitalization	Down 2.32%
Russell 2000 index	340.84

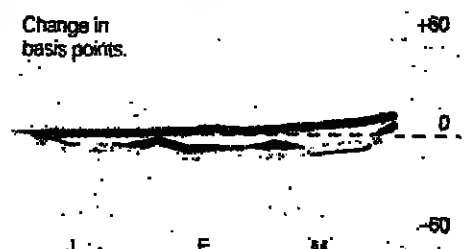
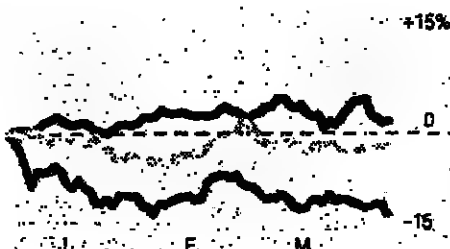
DOMESTIC BONDS	
Treasuries	Up 0.02%
Ryan Labs. Total Return	191.87
Municipals	Down 0.63%
Bond Buyer Index	113.47
Corporates	Down 0.01%
Merrill Lynch Master index	839.44

AROUND THE WORLD	
European stocks	Down 2.99%
F.T.-Actuaries Europe	240.51
Asian stocks	Down 1.45%
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	131.82
Gold	Up 0.43%
New York cash price	\$351.70

Foreign indices are given in dollar terms

YIELDS	
BONDS	
Long bonds	7.12%
30-year Treasuries	Up 4 basis pts.
Notes	6.40%
2-year Treasuries	Down 4 basis pts.
Municipals	5.98%
Bond Buyer index	Up 6 basis pts.

OTHER INVESTMENTS	
Money market funds	4.96%
Taxable average	Up 13 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s	5.15%
1-year small savers	Up 4 basis pts.
Stocks	2.01%
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Up 5 b.p.



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

The New York Times

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An Endgame for the Mideast

President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright like to talk about America as the indispensable nation, the only country with the power and prestige to help bring peace to troubled regions like the Middle East. They now have a chance to deliver on that grand image. The unfinished peace between Israel and the Palestinians is near collapse and Washington's role as avuncular mediator will no longer suffice. Mr. Clinton and Ms. Albright must make some hard decisions and take some political risks to end the conflict.

They can begin tomorrow when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel comes to the White House. Both Mr. Netanyahu and Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, have mismanaged the peace effort in the weeks since the two sides reached a milestone agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank city of Hebron. Israel has imperiously proceeded with a housing construction project in East Jerusalem and Palestinian terror attacks have resumed in Israel.

With trust disintegrating and violent confrontations resuming, the entire step-by-step approach to peace no longer seems promising. If there is no other route open, Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat, with a powerful push from Washington, may have to return to the phased peace plan outlined in the original Oslo agreements three years ago.

But another, more daring option may be available if the White House is willing to bear the risks involved. It is to move directly to intensive negotiations on a final settlement. That would mean negotiating permanent boundaries between the areas of Israeli and Palestinian control and defining the respective rights of the two peoples in Jerusalem.

It would require deciding whether Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza should be uprooted, annexed to Israel, or transferred to Palestinian rule with security guarantees. Final settlement talks must also determine whether the Palestinians win a full-fledged state of their own,

or must accept some limits on their sovereignty.

A drive for a final agreement would probably require continuous high-level talks with active American participation, not unlike the 1978 Camp David marathon led by President Carter. Though the idea may seem improbable in the tense climate that now prevails, it should not be dismissed. Some conditions are favorable. Mr. Netanyahu is pushing for the idea, and the White House seems willing to consider it. The two main Israeli political parties have begun to sketch out elements of a politically sustainable Israeli bargaining position. Mr. Netanyahu even seems prepared to discuss the formation of a Likud-Labor coalition government, which would free him to make some difficult concessions.

Palestinian leaders, while wary of skipping past the remaining land transfers due under Oslo, have recently been thinking creatively about final-status issues. On Jerusalem, for example, Mr. Arafat now talks about a Vatican City-type arrangement that would not require a redrawing of the city. Others have ventured further, suggesting a new Palestinian capital that would lie inside metropolitan Jerusalem but outside present city limits.

Compromises on Jerusalem and the other issues will be painful for both sides, and impossible without sustained pressure and encouragement from Washington. They will have to honor Israel's need for military security and legitimate Palestinian aspirations to national dignity.

Before any kind of talks can begin again, Mr. Arafat must unequivocally restate his opposition to terrorism and back up his words with consistent actions. Mr. Netanyahu should respond with constructive gestures in the economic sphere — for example, allowing the opening of the Palestinian airport and seaport facilities in Gaza. Nothing, however, will happen without the direct and active involvement of Mr. Clinton and Ms. Albright. America can only be the indispensable nation if its leaders are prepared to make it so.

Welfare Reform's Other Victims

Among this country's 30 million low-wage workers without high school degrees, there is widespread fear that the new law requiring welfare recipients to work will cost them their jobs. Many economists say that relatively few workers will be displaced. But there will be suffering because the influx of low-paid workers will drive down the wages of those who already have jobs.

About four million welfare recipients will go to work either in private-sector jobs or — if states assume responsibility — in workfare, which pays the recipient welfare benefits in exchange for cleaning parks or other public-service work. If the economy stays strong, labor markets can absorb three or four million more workers without shoving aside existing workers. Over the past 20 years, unemployment rates have dropped even as millions of baby boomers flooded the market. More work for some does not mean less work for others. Welfare recipients will not just occupy a job slot. They will also earn income to spend on goods that other workers must be hired to produce.

The new law is not, however, without risks. Employers could afford to soak up the baby boomers because wages fell. Hiring welfare recipients at lower wages will also be profitable. Four million new workers might seem a small addition to a labor

force of 130 million. But most of them are concentrated in only a few regions, and because they will compete for the jobs that require little education or work experience, the influx of welfare recipients will create downward pressures on wages in those areas. Prof. Harry Holzer of Michigan State estimates that wages for unskilled workers across the nation could fall by an average of 10 percent.

If Congress could guarantee that the economy would remain forever strong, the new welfare law might make sense. Nearly everyone could work, even if wages fell. But the economy will at some point slow down. Many unskilled workers will lose their jobs, joining welfare recipients unable to hold a steady job in a lengthening unemployment line. Under the old law, they could collect food stamps for as long as they needed help. Under the new law, childless adults can lose their food stamps in a matter of months. Cash benefits for parents could be cut off after two years.

The states could step in to fill the void created by Congress. But judging from past experience, most states will not want to raise the necessary taxes because they fear losing their competitive edge in the hunt for new industry. When Congress ripped away the safety net, it had no idea how much fear and desperation it would cause.

Editorial Notebook

Philadelphia's School Wars

Plagued by truancy, violence and underachievement, Philadelphia's public schools are among the nation's worst. As of last year, fewer than 6 percent of the city's high school students tested as competent in reading. The children of the city's middle class — including its politicians — have fled to private or parochial schools. Yet despite all these obvious signs of failure, Philadelphians were stunned when their superintendent of schools seized control of two high schools and announced that teachers there would be transferred for failing to raise achievement levels. The takeover provoked demonstrations, vandalism, a lawsuit by the teachers and a scolding from political leaders who knew perfectly well that the superintendent, David Hornbeck, had no choice.

Confidence in the schools had evaporated. A recent poll commissioned by Democrats in Pennsylvania's Legislature showed that 8 in 10 Philadelphians believed the system needed dramatic change. Nearly half the city's whites and three-quarters of its African-Americans favored a voucher plan that would allow low-income students in failing schools to use public money for private-school tuition. Since most of the whites had already fled the system, the meaningful figure here is the overwhelming number of African-Americans who said they wanted out as well. Their children make up about 65 percent of the school population, which is 80 percent minority. If Mr. Hornbeck does not show swift improvement, the cry for a voucher system will grow.

Several states are considering voucher systems. Wisconsin and Ohio already have such programs for low-income children, allowing them to attend private schools. In Kentucky, a voucher-like law allows families to leave failing public schools and enroll in good public schools, taking state education dollars with them. As a consultant, Mr. Hornbeck helped to write Kentucky's laws, setting up rewards and punishments that have brought greater accountability to the system.

Are Vouchers The Next Strategy?

In his role as superintendent, Mr. Hornbeck worries that vouchers for private schools would bankrupt an already cash-starved public system. But pressures are building to install a voucher system in the nearby city of Chester, which has been under a Federal court order to improve its schools since 1990. The court may well impose a voucher solution that bypasses Chester's public schools if the Governor does not act first.

Last month, Philadelphia's City Council narrowly defeated a nonbinding resolution in favor of vouchers. Two additional proposals are circulating at the state level and could eventually end up as law. One proposal would reimburse only a fraction of the cost of private education. A second proposal by State Representative Dwight Evans, a Democrat from Philadelphia, would reimburse parents in full. The plan draws upon Florence County v. Carter, a United States Supreme Court decision that authorized parents of learning-disabled children to sue for private-school tuition when the public schools failed. The ruling applied specifically to special education, but it was inevitable that lawmakers would try to apply it more broadly.

Mr. Evans dismisses critics who say vouchers would further destabilize the system. The middle class, he notes, has already fled. The African-American poor who support experiments with vouchers do so because they have been left behind with violent, dysfunctional schools with no prospect of improvement. Mr. Hornbeck is, in effect, asking for one last chance to make these schools work. He plans to transfer three-fourths of the teachers in these schools and put new staff and curriculum in place. The aim is to reduce disruption and truancy while improving overall performance.

State takeovers of failing schools are rare. There have been modest successes and some flat-out failures. If Mr. Hornbeck succeeds, Philadelphia's schools could get new life. If he fails, vouchers could be the next stop.

BRENT STAPLES

Without Abortion Rights, Women Aren't Equal

To the Editor:

I am someone Naomi Wolf ("Pro-Choice and Pro-Life," Op-Ed, April 3) would classify as having one of the "rigid views" on abortion.

On an issue of such importance, however, I believe rigidity — or, perhaps more correctly, firmness of principle — is what's called for.

Women's ability to control their own reproduction, including by abortion, is essential for full participation in society.

Having and raising a child can be a wonderful experience if the child is wanted. If it is not, it can destroy a woman's life, her health, dreams and

aspirations.

Thus, abortion is not, as Ms. Wolf maintains, "a necessary evil." There is nothing at all "evil" about it for the simple reason that abortion is necessary for women to have control over their lives. The fetus as potential human being should never take priority over the life of the existing human being, the woman.

To Ms. Wolf's criticism that pro-choicers have ignored the "hunger for a moral framework," I maintain that upholding abortion on demand and without apology is profoundly moral because it puts women first. I agree there are two "rigid" sides in this

battle — but one is rigid and one is wrong.
MARY LOU GREENBERG
New York, April 3, 1997

Common Ground

To the Editor:

As a fairly staunch proponent of the pro-life position, I prepared myself for a dose of invective when I opened the Op-Ed page on April 3 and saw Naomi Wolf's article on abortion. As I read on, however, I was surprised to find myself sharing a common ground.

Certainly many pro-life and pro-choice supporters can agree that the high rate of abortion in our society is a symptom of another problem. If we can insure that women have support, options and assistance long before they are faced with the choice of abortion, we can begin to address this.

ANTHONY RIMICCI
Piscataway, N.J., April 3, 1997

Constitutional Choice

To the Editor:

"The old Marxist-Freudian, secular-materialist left" may have run out of ideas and authority for Naomi Wolf ("Pro-Choice and Pro-Life," Op-Ed, April 3).

No matter, for the authority I believe grants me the right to an abortion is the United States Constitution, which also supports the separation of church and state, which Ms. Wolf seems to be willing to forfeit to do battle with the religious right on their own turf.

The Supreme Court has given me the authority to choose an abortion should I find myself in need of one. Ms. Wolf seems to believe secularism is worn out, powerless to halt the momentum of the religious right.

Regardless of whether or not the majority of individuals in this country claim an affiliation with an organized religion, the Government that protects our rights is a secular one.

Ms. Wolf's assessment is that since the majority in America believe in God, this "is a religious country." This is a democratic country, in which the state protects the rights of citizens against majority opinions when those opinions are antithetical to democracy or inconsistent with the protection of the rights of individuals granted by the Constitution.

CLAIRE NEEBEL-HOLLANDER
New York, April 3, 1997

Power and Autonomy

To the Editor:

Despite Naomi Wolf's admirable attempt to bring a voice of progress to the abortion debate ("Pro-Choice and Pro-Life," Op-Ed, April 3), I find myself face to face with the old familiar anger that infects me every time I read another piece on abortion.

Why? Because I believe the abortion issue is a red herring for a larger, more frightening one: the desire to keep women in their place.

Those who argue against any and all forms of abortion are frightened of the prospect of female autonomy, and abortion is the last stand they can make against this freedom while still claiming the moral high ground.

There are a lot of good people who feel spiritually compelled to fight abortion and are not consciously aware of their participation in this fear or its true consequences.

They are responding emotionally, not intellectually. They are presuming a right to dictate policy about a private medical issue, a presumption that would not take place if women were truly powerful.

Those of us who see the real-world consequences of unwanted pregnancies carried to term know that the only way to help save children's lives is to help women.

ELYSE KNIGHT
Piermont, N.Y., April 3, 1997

Kids Deserve Total Frankness on Drugs

To the Editor:

Teen-agers recognize adult hypocrisy even when we are blinded to it by our own self-interest, as Frank Rich (column, April 3) points out about ABC News's feel-good anti-drug campaign. And so teen-agers engage in the behavior they see being modeled by adults and ignore the cascade of meaningless words.

Our children see that we have perpetrated a big lie about drugs. We tell them that all drugs are equally bad and that any use is the first step onto a slippery slope from which there is no return.

We persist in repeating this untruth, even though so many of today's parents used marijuana in the past; even though a significant number still sneak out of the house to get high; even though kids can see that a drink with friends does not lead to alcoholism.

If teen-agers can see that we have lied to them about social drinking and marijuana, why should they believe us about the real dangers of cocaine, heroin and prescription drugs?

It is time to rethink the antidrug effort and the way we parents talk to



Felipe Calhoun

our children about the varying risks of drinking, smoking, swallowing and injecting different drugs. My husband and I are as forthcoming as we can be with our 11-year-old. For the sake of his daughter, I hope the President is as straightforward with Chelsea. One has to wonder: does he tell her that he did not inhale?

MARIAN BASS
Princeton, N.J., April 3, 1997

Health Care Folly

To the Editor:

David Frum's April 2 Op-Ed article points out what's wrong with the health insurance system. But his recommendation — to allow insurance companies to call the tune on health care — will only create more misery and chaos. "Basic coverage" will be just that: all the illnesses we never catch will be covered; those we do catch will not be covered because they cost money and raise premiums.

We are alone among the major industrialized nations in having left our health insurance system to the insurance companies for so long that the problems are now out of control.

When will we realize that the private health insurance market and health care are fundamentally incompatible?

KEVIN TWINE
South Orange, N.J., April 2, 1997

Faith and Carburetors

To the Editor:

Well la-di-da about the study indicating that many scientists believe in God (news article, April 3), because what really affects society more is the faith of car mechanics.

I have a 1983 Ford station wagon with 122,000 miles on it, and I know that when I take my car from Manhattan to the shop in Long Island City and say to my guy, "Lou, look at the transmission," chances are the morality built on the foundation of his faith and his teachings of accountability will keep him from messing with the engine. So what if I drive my car to the synagogue and Lou drives his to church?

Yes, it's nice when mathematicians find God in their calculus, but I'll take a mechanic who sees God in my carburetor.

SHLOMO GEWIRTZ
New York, April 3, 1997

New Jersey Drivers

To the Editor:

Cheers for covering a most hazardous facet of New Jersey life, although the subject of crazy, aggressive and intimidating New Jersey drivers should get front-page coverage (Our Towns, March 30).

Considering the number of pedestrians and automobile drivers and passengers maimed and killed every year on New Jersey's roads and highways, "gun control" should be put on the back burner and "auto control" on the front, so that not only the news media would get after these reckless drivers but also New Jersey police departments would get needed public back-up in their effort to make our highways safer.

My neighbors constantly complain about high auto insurance rates, yet the same individuals get in their high-velocity cars and run stop signs and red lights, tailgate, weave and speed and cut others off in order to be "first."

Until the fender-benders and aggressive speeders get control of themselves, they will be facing higher insurance rates.

MELVIN F. LEE
Hoboken, N.J., March 30, 1997

N.Y. Island Swapping

To the Editor:

Re "Dividing Ellis Island" (editorial, April 3): New York City wants Ellis Island, Staten Island, on the other hand, doesn't want New York City. New Jersey would probably be glad to get either island. Am I the only one who sees a solution? Give Staten Island to New Jersey with our blessings. In return, New York City retains its historic claim to Ellis Island. Everybody wins.

BRUCE C. HANDBAUM
New York, April 3, 1997

Impeachment Is a Valid Answer to a Judiciary Run Amok

To the Editor:

Anthony Lewis (column, March 28) is one of many to deride my proposal to have Congress use its constitutional authority to act as a check on the imperial judiciary, casting me as an extremist bent on destroying the Constitution. On the contrary, I hold the Constitution in such high regard that I carry it in my pocket everywhere I go.

Impeaching wayward judges is well within the historical precedents of the Constitution. Chief Justice John Marshall observed that the "present doctrine seems to be that a Judge giving a legal opinion contrary to the opinion of the legislature is liable to impeachment."

Thomas Jefferson said: "The opinion which gives to the judges the right to decide what laws are constitutional and what not, not only for themselves in their own sphere of action but for the legislature and the executive also in their spheres, would make the judiciary a despotic branch."

This view has remained consistent throughout our history. Even Representative Gerald R. Ford explained

in 1970 when proposing the impeachment of Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court that "an impeachable offense is whatever a majority of the House of Representatives considers it to be at a given moment in history."

The judiciary has run amok. Here are but a few examples:

• Citizens voted down a proposed tax increase, but the Supreme Court nevertheless ordered the tax to be levied (Missouri v. Jenkins).

• Judge Thelton E. Henderson of Federal District Court in San Francisco blocked Proposition 208, the voter-approved ban on preferences on race and hiring, even though the language banning racial discrimination was the same as the Civil Rights

Act of 1964.

• Judge Fred S. Blyer of Federal District Court in San Antonio placed an injunction on the ballots of military personnel and prevented a Republican sheriff and county commissioner from taking their seats, despite finding that the case involved only state issues.

I advocate impeaching judges who consistently ignore their constitutional role, violate their oath of office and breach the separation of powers. The Framers provided the tool of impeachment to keep the power of the judiciary in check. It is a tool Congress should explore using.

(Rep.) TOM DELAY
Majority Whip
Washington, April 3, 1997

Clinton's Mideast Role

To the Editor:

If President Clinton acts boldly to keep the Middle East peace process alive, heeding Thomas L. Friedman's advice ("The Bell Tolls for Oslo," column, March 31), he will have plenty of support from American Jews. In a recent survey, 94 percent of American Jews said that it is important "for the United States to take an active role in working to promote a lasting peace in the Middle East."

Mr. Clinton has always shown friendship to Israel. Now Israel needs something more: his strong leadership.

RAE M. GINSBURG
Jupiter, Fla., April 3, 1997

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Journal
FRANK RICH

Founding Fathers Get Lost

Dead white men, we're constantly told, are on the way out at America's universities, done in by multiculturalism and radical feminism. But the biggest single threat in decades to the future academic standing of America's most august dead white men — Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, Madison — turns out not to be a campus plot but a case of what one historian calls "bipartisan political fecklessness." Over the past two years, such unlikely bedfellows as William Bennett, Lynne Cheney and the Clinton Administration have all played leading roles, largely unreported, in threatening to extinguish the Founding Fathers projects: the scholarly effort to document our patriots' lives by collecting and annotating their voluminous papers (18,000 letters by Jefferson alone) in books available to anyone with a library card.

This high-casualty battle of the culture wars began two years ago when Mr. Bennett and Ms. Cheney, both formerly enthusiastic heads of the National Endowment for the Humanities, went to the Hill to recant and argue for the agency's abolition. As card-carrying G.O.P. revolutionaries, they suddenly found that the endowment was (in Mr. Bennett's words) an "unnecessary, imprudent and inappropriate" use of Federal funds. Though they didn't succeed in killing the N.E.H. or its sister agency, the National Endowment for the Arts, they helped main them both. The already small humanities budget was cut by a third, to a measly \$110 million.

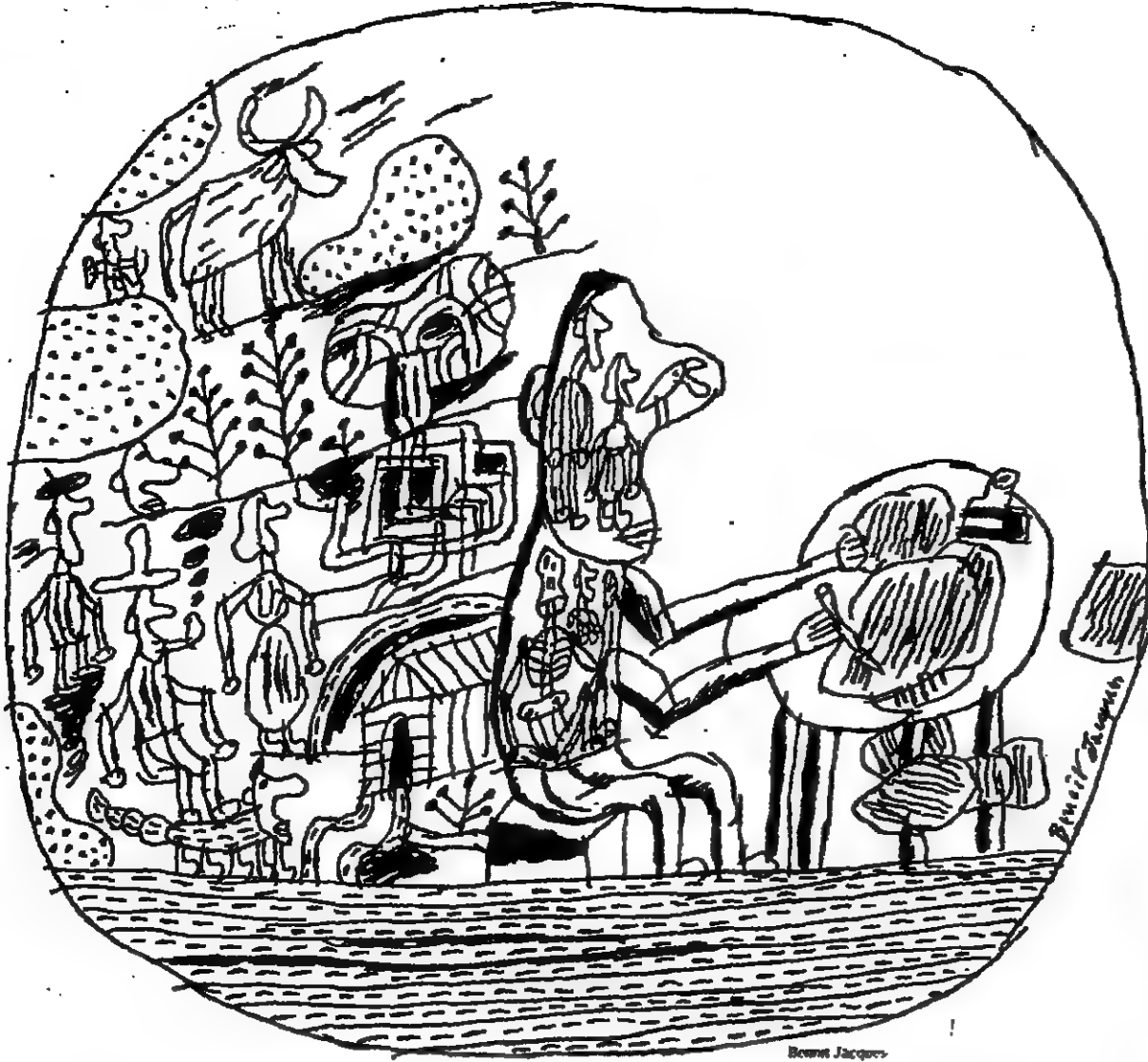
Ms. Cheney conceded in her testimony that the N.E.H. had done some good, including the preservation of historical papers — but in her Leninist zeal to kill the endowment, she told the Congressmen not to worry. "Private support" would rise, like Paul Revere, to the rescue. She was wrong. The N.E.H. she left in tatters has had to slash its budget for the Founding Fathers projects like everything else. And while some private money has always supported the publication of these documents — beginning in 1943, when The New York Times gave \$200,000 toward the Jefferson papers — such largesse has declined steeply of late. "Richard E. Ekman" of the Mellon Foundation, citing the growing demands on philanthropies like his at a time of cutbacks in social services, sees no hope of increases now.

Along with the N.E.H., which had given up to 40 percent of these projects' budget, and private money (averaging 20 percent), there's a third donor: an affiliate of the National Archives known as the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Enter the Clinton Administration and its political hackery: in a November meeting whose boorish minutes could have been written by Sinclair Lewis, this commission voted for the first time in its history to demote the Founding Fathers projects in its budget priorities, putting them behind politically opportune block grants to state archival projects. One member, a State Department historian named William Slany, justified his stand by making the self-fulfilling prophecy that interest in the Founding Fathers is bound to "dwindle." The National Archivist himself — John Carlin, a non-historian (but Clinton campaign supporter) appointed over the loud objections of much of the historical profession — has gone so far as to say that his top priority is to "capture the

Washington downsizes history.

history that is being created today." Joseph J. Ellis, the author of "American Sphinx," the acclaimed new study of Jefferson, says that until now the Founding Fathers projects had survived by consensus "through Democrats and Republicans" and "ups and downs in the budget" for half a century. "If people are more interested in what happens in 1997 with toilet makers in Macon, Ga., then God help us," he adds, noting that the founders' papers are "the closest thing the United States has to the classics." Arthur Schlesinger Jr., who has been campaigning to save the projects, points out the bleak irony that those in Washington "screaming about the lack of interest in history and tradition are leading the fight to deprive people of information about their history and tradition."

Mr. Schlesinger's letter seeking Mr. Clinton's intervention brought only a perfunctory non-response; his letter to his fellow historian, Newt Gingrich brought no answer at all. If the documenting of Jefferson, Washington and Franklin, already on life support, is soon to cease, we can only hope that our National Archivist will preserve the papers of today's politicians as assiduously as he promises so that future generations can learn why.



Literary Conceits

By Tobias Wolff

SYRACUSE
The reviews of Kathryn Harrison's "The Kiss" are enough to make you think she had committed a crime in writing about her seduction by her father and the bitter sexual entanglement that followed. Michael Shnayerson suggests in Vanity Fair that her motive in telling her story was not, as she herself says, a matter of personal and artistic necessity, but a squalid grab for publicity and sales. The Washington Post's Jonathan Yardley dismisses the entire book as "trash... not an artful word in it" — contrived "for personal gain and talk show notoriety."

The rage against memoirs, so our court, misses the point.

James Wolcott, in The New Republic, brings the author up on charges of being not only a hack, but also a mercenary opportunist, a liar and a bad mother, a wicked mother, whose autobiographical writings "constitute a narcissistic act on Harrison's part intended to invite misery and humiliation upon her children, especially the daughter, as misery was visited upon her."

I've never met Kathryn Harrison, but I have read her book, thought it remarkably courageous and well-told and have been happy to recommend it. Certainly there's nothing in it to explain the rage "visited upon her" by these critics.

The truth is that they are using her as a target of convenience for their animus against the genre she's working in — the memoir. All of them preface their attacks on her with expressions of suspicion or downright contempt for the personal writings that have recently found favor with readers. They want to be seen as bucking the trend, when of course they could not be more so, for it is now entirely the fashion with our self-deputed Border Patrol to mew in dismay at the wistful appearance of any new memoir at the gate of Literature.

Are these books so bad? From my own fairly extensive reading in the field, I'd say this: Some are indeed dreadful; most are mediocre; a few are good; a very few are superb. In other words, they correspond in quality to the new novels I read, and the new stories, and poems. Robert Frost is supposed to have said that there haven't been 500 poets in the world since Homer. We could probably make a case for opening up a few more positions, but the fact remains that at any given time there isn't a whole lot of work out there of the first order, and the contemporary work we do praise in those terms will, if past is portent, mostly pass into oblivion.

That holds true for every genre and form. The novelist, the historian, the poet and the memoirist all labor under the virtual certainty of being forgotten, yet all share equally in the hope of escaping that fate with a book like "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" or "The Oregon Trail" or "Life Studies" or "Memories of a Catholic Girlhood."

Tobias Wolff is the author of, most recently, "The Night in Question," a collection of short stories.

A memoir is not bad because it is a memoir, but because it is a bad memoir. Of course it's true that many autobiographical writers have made ruthless use of their histories, exploited those who trusted them, betrayed intimacies, displayed their wounds in the marketplace. Robert Graves was accused of doing exactly those things when "Goodbye to All That" was published.

But when I came to write my own account of wartime service I was guided more by his memoir of World War I than by any of the Vietnam histories I'd been reading to put myself back in the picture. Though we were very different, his trials much harsher than mine and his record infinitely more distinguished, I learned from him: He did not impose global understandings and sympathies on the rather narrow-minded young man he was then, whose area of greatest concern was, after all, the patch of ruined ground just in front of his trench; he treated his younger incarnation with neither condescension nor flattery, but with an objectivity that didn't flinch from revealing the juvenile priggishness, sexual confusion and self-importance to which he was subject, or the courage of which he was capable.

Without false apologies or exhibitions of right-mindedness he made me feel something of what it was like for one particular person to be drawn into that war, submit to its logic, then reject it utterly while somehow continuing to fight. I wanted to know how a man of flesh and blood, not of fiction, made sense of what had been done to him, and of what he had done. It is this sort of curiosity that draws people to memoirs, and it is a legitimate curiosity.

"To have written an autobiography," William Gass wrote in Harper's magazine three years ago, "is already to have made yourself a monster." His point was that the autobiographer is bound to puff himself up, to lie, to take revenge, to hide the greater sin by confessing the lesser, to crown herself with a halo. If this is true, it is no more true of memoirists than of other writers. What is the novelist's sentimentality (whether expressed in desperate cheer or easy cynicism) but a lie of the heart, and the conceit that nobody else is smart enough to see through it? Do poets not take revenge? Read your Camus. As for halos, isn't Mr. Gass wearing one here?

Writers of all kinds are prone to self-idealization. But the best memoirists have an astonishing capacity for seeing themselves in the round, fully implicated in the fallen creation of which they write. Think of George Orwell's "Shooting an Elephant." There's no conceit here, no halo, no getting even with an unkind world, only the absurd helplessness of a man taken prisoner by his own spurious authority.

We see the same honesty at work in Susanna Kaysen's description of going to an ice cream parlor with her fellow lunatics in "Girl, Interrupted."

Note to Readers

The Op-Ed page welcomes unsolicited manuscripts. Because of the volume of submissions, however, we regret that we cannot acknowledge an article or return it. If manuscripts are accepted for publication, authors will be notified within two weeks. For further information, call (212) 556-1831.

Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Bibi's Bypass

WASHINGTON
The sticking point in the negotiation between Israel and the Palestinians has always been Jerusalem.

Jewish voters last year decided overwhelmingly that Benjamin Netanyahu was less likely than Shimon Peres to crumble on the indivisibility of their nation's capital.

Since that election, the flash point of most controversy has remained Jerusalem. Yasir Arafat incited a furor over a tunnel that Israelis had every right to reopen in their capital. He then seized on the construction of housing on a barren hill inside the city limits to incite rioting — all to assert a claim to a piece of Jerusalem to be his capital.

Thus has this generation's battle for Jerusalem been joined. Judgmental journalists buy Arafat's line when they describe "Arab East Jerusalem," redrawing the city with a twist of a dateline. The U.S. Congress, on the contrary, is on record recognizing Jerusalem as the State of Israel's indivisible capital.

Since Mr. Arafat chose to put his claim to Jerusalem on the world's agenda, Mr. Netanyahu proposes to address it now.

The easy part of plans laid in Oslo — awarding the Arabs much of the West Bank in return for a permanent renunciation of terror — was supposed to come first. But reality intruded. When Israel acted as if it controlled its own capital — as it never agreed in Oslo to stop doing — the Palestinian Authority considered that a provocation and broke its agreement to control Arab terrorists.

This exposed the great mistake in the "easy part first" approach taken by Shimon Peres. Israel was to make a series of West Bank territorial concessions along the way to the endgame, when Arafat would surely say, "not enough — we also want a large piece of Jerusalem."

No other land would be left to close a deal. Unless Israel then surrendered the sovereignty of part of its capital, as no other nation is required to do, the Jewish state would be branded a global pariah and targeted in an extended jihad. It would stand fast in defense of its capital, and there would be no peace.

That's why Netanyahu's proposal to get to the point within the next six months makes good sense for both sides. He accepts the reality that Arafat is daily trying to negotiate the capital's status. He urges that this claim be put on the table now and

discussed as part of an overall settlement.

Arafat is refusing unless Israel is willing to signal its willingness to weaken its stand on the unity of Jerusalem at the outset. That underlies his demand for an end to what he calls "settlement" inside the Israeli capital — as if Israel's building of

Shortcut to Mideast peace.

housing in the city limits were a colonization of his territory.

If Netanyahu conceded that, he would concede the division of Jerusalem. By maintaining unmistakable political control of Israel's whole capital, he makes clear the limits of the final deal — and invites a realistic response from Palestinians who at last have a state of their own in sight.

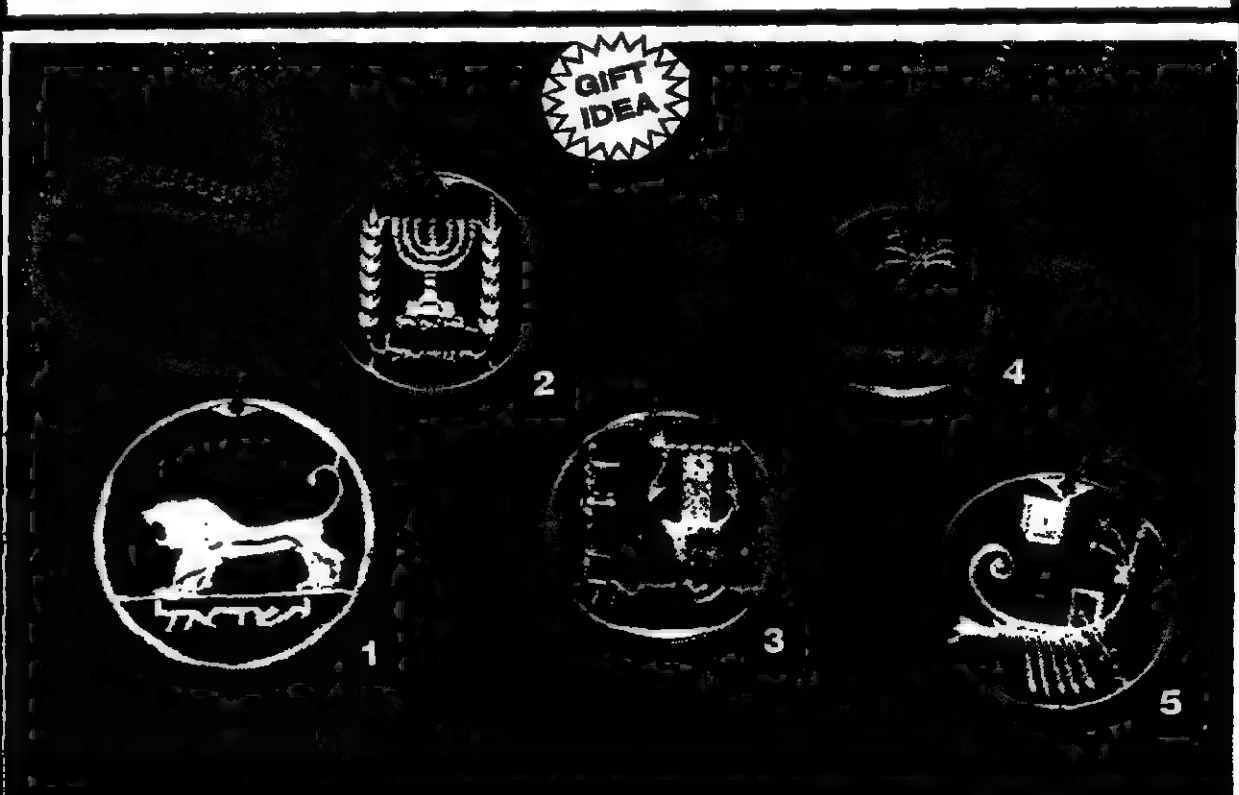
He sees the American President in Washington tomorrow. Mr. Clinton will be tempted to curry favor with Palestinians by repeating his "wish" that Israel stop building and otherwise asserting its sovereignty in Jerusalem.

Clinton should resist that temptation to appear evenhanded because it raises Arafat's hopes of getting the capital he wants. If the Palestinian leader should take Clinton's misplaced wish as a signal of coming American pressure to divide Israel's capital, the peace process would end with Israel grudgingly setting its own borders and locking out Arab workers.

And if the President gets the urge to hint that Netanyahu should form a coalition government in Israel, to give Shimon Peres the last hurrah he desperately seeks, Clinton should bite his tongue. The possibility of uniting with Labor is a club that Netanyahu uses to keep Likud hawks in line, but would foster a fresh burst of Palestinian unreality. Ehud Barak will replace Mr. Peres at Labor's head this summer; a toughminded coalition might then work.

Clinton could help by holding out the promise of a Camp David conclusion to the next six months of direct Israeli-Palestinian final-status negotiations. If Arafat balks, the world will know which side is not dealing in good faith.

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THE ARTS

British Dichotomy: Prosperous Country, Angry Artists

By ALAN RIDING

THE CULTURAL BUZZ LIGHTING UP LONDON these days comes with unlikely thanks to Margaret Thatcher. The Iron Lady herself had no time for arty types, whom she presumed to be leftists bent on living off Government subsidies. She naturally frowned on official promotion of culture. And after she resigned in 1990, Government spending on the arts continued to shrink under her successor, John Major.

Yet, as 18 years of Conservative rule draw to a likely close in the May 1 general election, British movies, theater, visual arts, fashion and pop music are livelier now than at any time since the 1960's. And, strangely, Mrs. Thatcher deserves much credit. By imposing a Darwinian order on the arts, she forced new creative talents to learn to stand on their own. Most of those who have taken up this challenge are themselves very much children of the Tory years: born in the late 1960's and 1970's, they can remember no Prime Minister other than Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Major. Yet what they have to say is anything but a paean to Thatcherism. Their message is angry, rebellious and, in the end, idealistic.

"Mrs. Thatcher forced artists to say that there are more important things than money, marketing and management," said Richard Eyre, the departing director of the Royal National Theater.

But if British society still exists, it is also fast changing.

In one sense, the market has triumphed. With the British economy now growing, there is money to be spent on clothes, restaurants, nightclubs, pop concerts and drugs. The new mania for fun, fun, fun has in turn fed the hype that London is swinging again, cheerfully embracing role-models of the likes of the designers John Galiano and Alexander McQueen, the supermodels Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss and the pop groups Oasis, Blur and the Spice Girls. Yet this world of glitz is enjoyed by relatively few people.

"I have coined the phrase 'tragic hedonism' for Thatcherism," said Robert Hewison, a British cultural historian and author of "Future Tense: A New Art for the Nineties." Young artists evoke a far bleaker Britain. Over the last 18 years, the closing of coal mines, shipyards and other labor-intensive industries has spawned a new underclass that lives on the periphery of the job and consumer market and smolders with resentment.

Yet the clash of old and new has produced the raw energy that is feeding the current cultural renaissance.

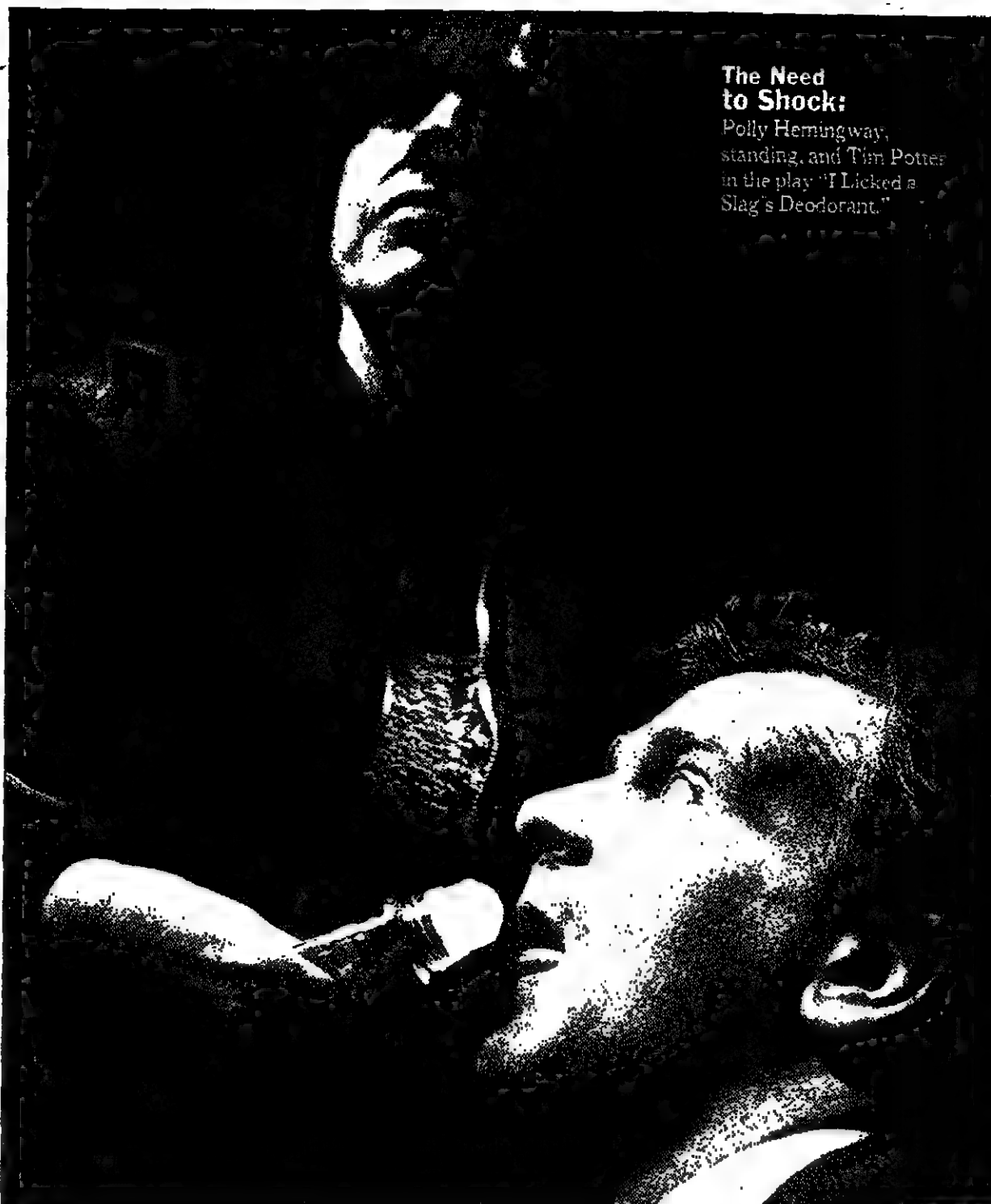
"Thatcherism required that if anything was to be done, you had to do it yourself," Mr. Hewison said.

Artists had a complete lack of faith in institutions. Instead, they adopted business values and learned to sell themselves.

The first to do so were visual artists, notably art students from Goldsmiths' College, led by Damien Hirst, who in 1988 organized their own show called "Freeze." This proved a crossroads. Instead of waiting for collectors, galleries or museums to recognize them, they elbowed their way into public awareness, often being outlandishly provocative in order to be noticed (witness Mr. Hirst's famous dissected animals preserved in formaldehyde). And they began setting up independent artist-led spaces in abandoned warehouses and factories in the East End of London, Glasgow, Manchester, Belfast and other cities.

"The idea was, if the system can't accommodate you, you create your own system, you take matters into your own hands," said Julia Peyton-Jones, the director of the Serpentine Gallery in London, which concentrates on contemporary art.

Almost a decade after "Freeze," a score of young visual artists enjoy considerable recognition, thanks in part to the Saatchi Gallery (where Charles Saatchi has built up Britain's most important collection of contemporary art) and the Tate Gallery's annual Turner Prize for under-50 artists. Many new faces are also represented by galleries now, notably Jay Jopling's White Cube and



The Need to Shock:

Polly Hemmingsway, standing, and Tim Potter in the play "I Licked a Slag's Deodorant."

Nicholas Logsdail's Lisson Gallery. Their rosters include Mr. Hirst, Steve McQueen, Marc Quinn, Sam Taylor-Wood, Chris Ofili, Fiona Rae, Angus Fairhurst, Gary Hume, Georgina Starr, Douglas Gordon, Gillian Waring and Rachel Whiteread.

One who has turned her own life into her art is Tracey Emin, 34. She has set up a "museum" in a former office space near Waterloo Station to show her work, including strange collages of letters and souvenirs from

That certainly is the view of many new British movie makers for whom the bucolic England of Jane Austen and Merchant-Ivory holds no interest. Rather it is "Trainspotting" — Irvine Welsh's book and the hit movie by the same name — that has come to symbolize the new wave. When "Trainspotting" came out last year, the British movie industry was in fact already stirring after the fallow 1980's (albeit still lagging behind Ireland's flourishing movie business).

Channel 4 Films, originally founded to produce movies for television, such as Stephen Frears's "My Beautiful Laundrette," had begun making feature films. It proved quite daring, co-financing Neil Jordan's "Crying Game," which had trouble finding backers. In 1994, it was rewarded with its first international hit in Mike Newell's "Four Weddings and a Funeral." With "Shallow Grave," a clever film noir, Channel 4 collaborated with the enterprising trio made up of the director Danny Boyle, the producer Andrew Macdonald and the screenwriter John Hodge.

After "Shallow Grave," the three again joined forces with Channel 4 for "Trainspotting." Since then, Channel 4 has backed Mike Hearn's "Brassed Off," while Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Boyle produced Kevin Allen's "Twin Town" for Polygram Filmed Entertainment.

"I think what's different is that the old guard never cared about the audience," Mr. Macdonald explained. "They would make films for 55-year-olds. We make films for the younger, 16 to 25, crowd that goes to the cinema. These films don't need good reviews in The Observer. They have their audience, they are rough at the edges and very specific. I'm always surprised when they do well outside Britain."

Just as surprising is that they also do well in London, because they tell stories from distant outreaches of the kingdom: "Shallow Grave" and "Trainspotting" were shot in Scotland, "Twin Town" in Wales and "Brassed Off" in northern England. "Twin Town," which celebrates the anarchic and deeply antisocial

behavior of two violent, foul-mouthed brothers, played by the real-life brothers Rhys Ifans and Llyr Evans (Evans is the Anglicized version of Ifans) has already been tagged a Welsh "Trainspotting." It is also funny, scattering such national symbols as rugby, sheep and male choirs into

a story about class warfare and miscarriage of justice. It will be released in the United States on May 9.

In contrast, "Brassed Off," which opens in the United States on May 23, hides its political punch in a sentimental story about trying to save a Yorkshire colliery's brass band during a wave of coal pit closings ordered by the conservative Government. Starring Ewan McGregor, who also appeared in "Shallow Grave" and "Trainspotting," the movie presents itself as a comedy, but anger bursts through when the mine is shut and the band's fate is sealed.

The next movie in this latter-day "kitchen sink" movement is Peter Cattaneo's still-unreleased "Full Monty," a bittersweet tale of earthy steelworkers in the Yorkshire city of Sheffield who try to improve their lot by becoming strippers in what the film's publicity notes describe as "a potent mix of desperation, personal tragedy and spirited enthusiasm."

With a host of new production companies, including Working Title ("Four Weddings and a Funeral" — made with Channel 4 — "Fargo" and "Kolya," no less) adding to the momentum, success is evidently breeding success. Cheered by the prospect of a movie industry that brings in profits and creates jobs, the Government has allowed revenues from the National Lottery to be used as seed money for new low-budget productions. Even more daringly, it has decided to pump \$240 million of lottery profits into the creation of four fledgling studios. For the first time in decades, British movie makers are feeling optimistic. Indeed, there is a risk that too many British films will be made.

"There is a limited market and limited talent," said David Aukin, who runs Channel 4's film division and who plans to commission and finance around 20 films every year.

While the movie industry has welcomed the lottery money, the reaction of other sectors of the arts has been mixed. Legislation setting up the lottery three years ago assigned 25 percent of profits to capital expenditure on "good causes," including culture. As a result, the likes of the Royal Opera House, the Tate Gallery, the Royal Court Theater and the British Museum have now embarked on expensive modernizations and expansions.

But because Government subsidies for running many institutions

are frozen or shrinking, there is a fear that there may be no artists to perform in the glittering new theaters. Already, regional theaters have abandoned their role as proving grounds for new talent; some have closed while others put on easy crowd-pleasers to insure full houses.

Yet for all that, British theater has found ways of surviving. In London, while commercial fare fills the West End, pub theaters like the Gate and the Bush and experimental theaters like the Almeida, Donmar Warehouse and Royal Court offer more daring work to smaller audiences. Similarly, there is a place for young directors in the small Cottesloe Theater at the National Theater, in the Pit at the Barbican and in the Royal Shakespeare Company's Other Place at Stratford-on-Avon.

Most remarkable, however, has been the explosion in new plays, many of them by young men and women writing about the "downstairs" of British society. Annually, 800 are sent to the National Theater, 1,000 to the Bush and some 2,000 to the Royal Court. Most do not get produced, but all are read and around 30 new plays are staged each year.

"We get a huge number of plays about collapsing society," said Jack Bradley, the literary manager at the National Theater. "Perhaps that's why people choose to write plays in this country. Because they're opposed to the status quo."

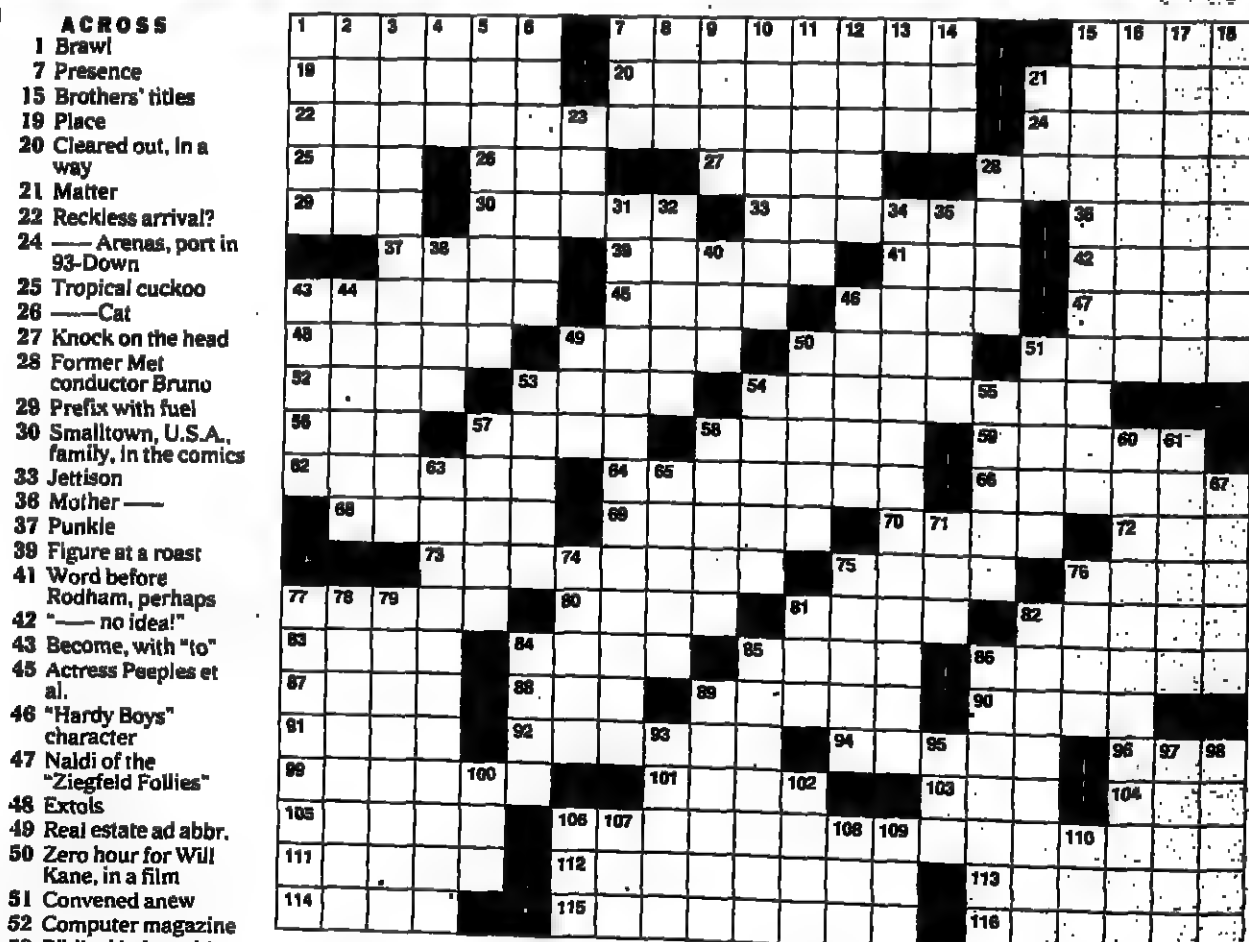
Certainly, there is no shortage of plays set in dysfunctional families, crumbling housing projects and depressed former mining towns. But interesting language, dark humor and strong dramatic structure are also frequently present.

Sometimes there is a need to shock, as in Jim Cartwright's play about a crack-addicted streetwalker, "I Licked a Slag's Deodorant," and an even more vulgarly named first play by Mark Ravenhill, 30, produced by the Royal Court this winter, that portrayed gay sex and cocaine-sniffing on stage.

This season's sensation is Martin McDonagh, a 26-year-old enfant terrible who won the Evening Standard Award for the most promising dramatist of 1996 for "The Beauty Queen of Leenane," his first professionally performed play. Since then, his new play, "The Cripple of Inishmaan," also set in Ireland and reminiscent of the work of J. M. Synge, has consolidated his reputation.

GETTING ON IN YEARS

BY RICH NORRIS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ



ACROSS

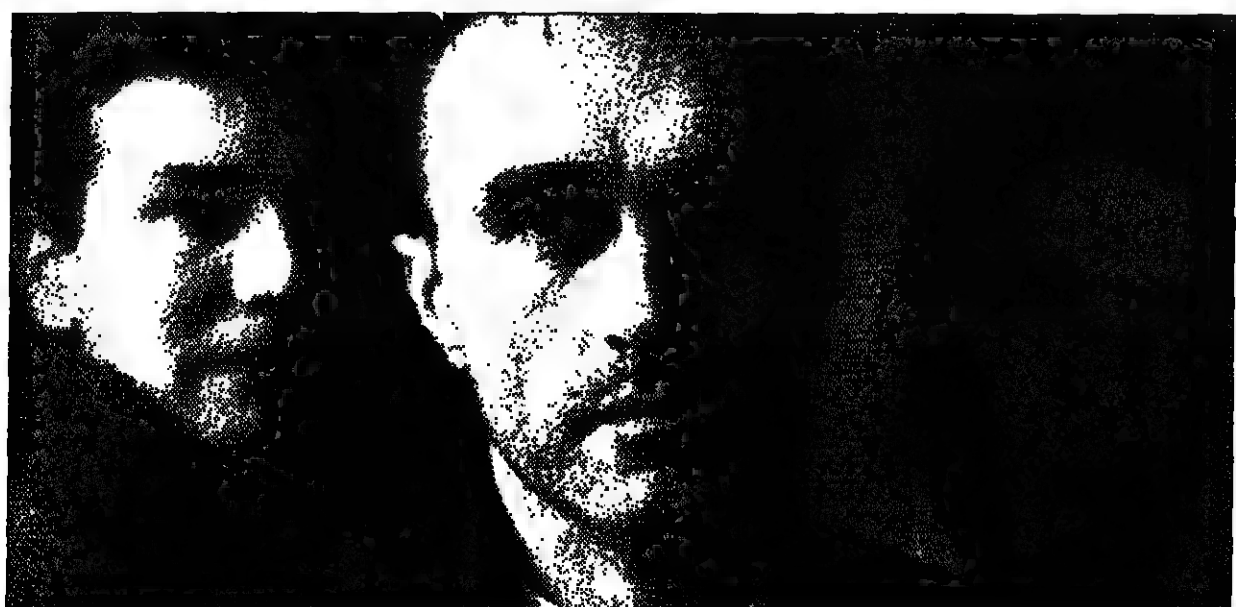
- 1 Brawl
- 7 Presence
- 15 Brothers' titles
- 19 Place
- 20 Cleared out, in a way
- 21 Matter
- 22 Reckless arrival?
- 24 — Arenas, port in 93-Down
- 25 Tropical cuckoo
- 26 — Cat
- 27 Knock on the head
- 28 Former Met conductor Bruno
- 29 Prefix with fuel
- 30 Smalltown, U.S.A., family, in the comics
- 33 Jettison
- 36 Mother —
- 37 Punkie
- 39 Figure at a roast
- 41 Word before Rodham, perhaps
- 42 — no idea!
- 43 Become, with "to"
- 48 Actress Peeples et al.
- 49 "Hardy Boys" character
- 57 Naldi of the "Ziegfeld Follies"
- 58 Extols
- 59 Real estate ad abbr.
- 60 Zero hour for Will Kane, in a film
- 61 Convened anew
- 62 Computer magazine
- 63 Biblical heirs, with "the"
- 64 "No food or drink" site, perhaps
- 66 "I knew it!"
- 67 Storyteller
- 68 Grating
- 69 Exchange figures
- 72 Philippine island
- 74 Early 20th-century French art style
- 75 Diamond status
- 76 Alley sounds
- 78 Warren Moon, once
- 79 A lot of time
- 80 Norwegian coin
- 81 Made a lot of noise
- 82 "A Hard Road to Glory" athlete-author
- 83 Baker
- 84 Loquacious
- 85 Anatomical passage
- 86 Rumble
- 87 Colgate rival
- 88 Hail —
- 89 Bulbous flower, for short
- 90 Blue of baseball
- 91 Plans, as a course
- 92 Muslim's House of God
- 93 Boost, with "up"
- 94 Acting baseball commissioner Bud
- 95 Maintained
- 96 Jack London's "Martin —"
- 97 Hoists
- 98 Glacial ice formation

DOWN

- 2 Causes of some scratches
- 3 Cox of "St. Elsewhere"
- 4 Temporary talent scarcity?
- 5 Saturn, for one
- 6 Their motto is "North to the future"
- 7 "Keystone Kops" producer
- 8 Alphabetic sequence
- 9 Sailing pronoun
- 10 Hall — (get transportation)
- 11 Name of 11 ancient Egyptian rulers
- 12 Transfix
- 13 Actor Vincent of "Alive"
- 14 Writer Wolitzer
- 15 "Fables in Slang" author
- 16 Questionable ancestry?
- 17 1961 Bobby Vee hit
- 18 Come before
- 19 Eyed
- 20 One doing a balancing job
- 21 Trick
- 22 Stimulate
- 23 Romantic bit of film making?
- 24 Brat's look
- 25 Atheist's E-mail, maybe?
- 26 She played Thelma in "Thelma & Louise"
- 27 Marcel Duchamp subject
- 28 Sky — (TV news aid)
- 29 Austrian composer Berg
- 30 Tumult
- 31 Some apartments
- 32 — dear —
- 33 Polite refusal
- 34 They exist from hand-to-mouth
- 35 Beethoven's "Solemnis"
- 36 No longer dirt
- 37 River at Avignon
- 38 Humble
- 39 Schoolbag item
- 40 Vacuum malfunction result?
- 41 Least equivocal
- 42 Prehistoric medical supply?
- 43 Was shown
- 44 Revival gear
- 45 Words of understanding
- 46 American record-holder Steve Scott, e.g.
- 47 Quatros and others
- 48 Kind of testimony
- 49 Get some coffee, perhaps
- 50 Don's world
- 51 Identifying equipment
- 52 :001 inch
- 53 Arrives, officially
- 54 Baltimore suburb — Burnie
- 55 Trace —
- 56 It may involve finger-pointing
- 57 Ancient Greek coin
- 58 Where the Bio-Bio flows
- 59 Margin
- 60 Bar selection
- 61 Managers, sometimes
- 62 Experimental rock pioneer
- 63 Jazz style
- 64 — Magoon
- 65 Part of a workout
- 66 Court figure: ABB
- 67 Rural sight
- 68 LL hopeful

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PAST NEON FOOL NAST
AGE EATUP OSLO DALAI
THEINPROMOUNGCEIREWARD
SANDMAN USDA SUGERS
EELS SNEER DEE
LANA PICAS DENTING
SILENCEDESTROYVUL
ENID AXEL ODS DITA
PRETTIFY ECDOD WETTS
RACE SCROD POCO
INDIGO POLISHORN OVO
SOAPS POLISHORN OVO
LITE ROLE OLIO CEOS
ASE VISA WASZVILORSKA
MESSAGES ESTOP RATE
ADS BLOS FOLIC
ASENDUP BLOS FOLIC
NOBELPRIZINGHETFOET
ATALE EPERA MNET GIGA
TONY DADS DEDE FASE



Film Trumvirate: Andrew Macdonald, left, Danny Boyle and John Hodge — The new guard.

Transcending tradition

Druse women who were once castigated for wanting a university education are now the pride of their village, Allison Ofanansky reports



One of the many Druse women from Galilee villages studying at Bar-Ilan University's Safed campus. (James Levine)

When Salha Sabik was a schoolgirl in the 1960s, all of the teachers in her village were male. The school in Hurfeish, in Upper Galilee, went only until grade eight, and the Druse families did not permit their daughters to leave the village to study further.

Now, Sabik is a teacher in the same village. Her younger brothers and sisters and all seven of her children have passed through her classroom. This year, she took a sabbatical to complete her B.A. degree at Bar-Ilan University college campuses in Safed and Tiberias.

"I was the first woman from Hurfeish to come here," Sabik said. "Then the next year my daughter came with all her friends." Druse women from villages throughout Galilee have jumped at the chance to study at university level.

Hevion Trabelsi, director of the Safed campus of Bar-Ilan, says the change is noticeable. "Not very long ago, we never saw Druse women," he said. "Suddenly, about three years ago, they started coming. Now there are over 70 enrolled just at this one small college."

"I think they prefer studying in a religious Jewish college to a secular college," he said. "Some of them even study Talmud here."

THE ORIGINAL reluctance towards women going to college stemmed from a concept that they would drift away from the tradition or marry non-Druse if they left the village. But that resistance has almost been forgotten, Sabik said. "All the religious men in the village came to talk to my father (before I enrolled at college)," she remembered. "They didn't want him to let me go. But my father had worked in kibbutzim and Jewish towns. He knew the difference between an educated and an

uneducated woman. And my parents knew they had a strong girl who wouldn't go away from the Druse religion. My father challenged them all and let me go to study in Haifa. Now, the religious fathers in particular want their daughters to study."

Sabik's oldest daughter, Nahide, is also working toward an education degree at Bar-Ilan in Safed. "When we came back (to the village) after college, everyone was able to see that they didn't have anything to be afraid of," said Julia Zeidan who, along with her sister, was one of the first Druse women to attend Haifa University. Zeidan is now a social worker at a local old-age home. "We were able to go to college and also to keep our Druse culture."

"We know our freedoms and our limitations," said Abeer Gadban, one of the Hurfeish women studying along with Nahide Sabik and her mother. "The religion gives both to us."

Teaching, social work and nursing are the most popular degrees among the Druse women; careers that give them the chance to live and work in their villages rather than drawing them to Tel Aviv or

Haifa. They want to study not only for personal satisfaction but also to help their families and villages. "We want the condition of the Druse to be higher, like the Moslems, Christians and Jews," said Lina Bader, an education student at Bar-Ilan University's Safed campus. "Our fathers and

their daughters by the hand, and choosing all the courses for them. The next year, the girls came by themselves. "Then the next year the fathers called again, asking if their daughters could rent a flat in town. We aren't even surprised any more."

The village elders tried to persuade Salha Sabik's father to forbid her from attending high school. This month, the school teacher - who is completing her B.A. - is to receive the village's 'Ideal Mother' award.

brothers went to work outside the village and to the army. Then they wanted their children, their daughters, to study. "A few years ago, I started getting phone calls from the Druse villages, asking about their daughters coming here to study," said Trabelsi of Bar-Ilan. "First, the fathers came, holding

"THE DRUSE men get to meet other Israelis in the army; the women can meet them here at the college, especially those that stay in the dorms," said Adam Schombrin, a teacher at Bar-Ilan in Safed. When women earn college degrees and part of the family income, one of the first things to change is delegation of house-

hold chores. "Of course my sons do much more around the house than most of their friends," Sabik said. "Everyone in my family helps, my husband too."

The traditional society in which she lives hasn't criticized Sabik for making her sons fold laundry. This month she is being honored with an "ideal mother" award from the village. This is the same village whose elders tried to talk her father out of letting her go to high school.

"My greatest reward is my students," Sabik said. "I was always encouraging the girls to finish their studies, to go to college. Now everywhere I see Druse women working; as secretaries, as social workers, as nurses. A new elementary school was just built in Hurfeish. There is only one male teacher; all the rest are Druse women."

"They used to think eighth grade was enough for girls," Sabik said. "My mother did not know how to write or read. None of the women in her generation learned to read. But I always imagined myself being a teacher. Now, I am imagining myself as headmistress of the school."

The Mommy Track



Maternity leave: No week in the Caribbean

By Allison Kaplan Sommer

I'd like to get my hands on whoever it was in the Hebrew Language Academy who made the ridiculous decision on how to translate the term "maternity leave." And I'm very sure it was a man.

Why? Well, literally translated, the Hebrew phrase "hufshar layda" means "childbirth vacation." And anyone who has ever pushed out a baby and then devoted themselves to caring fulltime for a newborn infant knows very well that while the experience may be exciting, fulfilling, meaningful and all that warm and fuzzy stuff, it ain't no day at the beach, let alone two weeks in the Caribbean.

Frankly, as my maternity leave draws to a close, I can say without hesitation that full-time motherhood is the toughest job I've ever held. And I was no novice when it came to meeting challenges, no naive teenage bride facing her first real responsibilities in life.

After all, at the age of 32, I'd spent a good decade in the workplace, covered wars, peace talks, navigated White House press conferences, Capitol Hill bureaucracy, the New York subway system, Tel Aviv traffic jams, Labor and Likud party conventions. I've met demanding deadlines and faced cutthroat competition. I know how to handle a job. And I thought that I'd experienced some tough employ-

ment. But no boss was ever as demanding and unforgiving as my son, Eitan. When Eitan wants something done, he wants it done immediately. No hesitations, no excuses, no explanations, not even begging and groveling gets through to him. When his diaper has to be changed, it has to be changed now.

When he wants his bottle, he's not interested in the fact that it would take any normal human being a few minutes to prepare it. When he's bored, he wants some fun and games immediately. If his demands aren't met, he screams till he's purple.

And sometimes even when I've done my job perfectly, when his diaper is clean, his stomach is full, his entertainment is supplied, he still isn't satisfied. There's no logic to obtaining a favorable job performance review from this man.

Moreover, the hours are ridiculous. If motherhood were union-

ized, women would hold all of the world's wealth.

Can you imagine what kind of overtime hours we'd qualify for? Nights, weekends, holidays? And every full-time mother would certainly demand a hefty raise for every new little demanding boss she brought into the world.

Many claim that this parenting business is a team effort. But the fellow employee designated as my partner, carrying the job title "husband and father" is often nowhere in sight. He leaves the house for eight to 10 hours each day, using the flimsy excuse that he has to attend to something called "real work." Well, if he is working, and I am not, why does he have time to take a shower, get dressed, use the bathroom, and eat meals using both hands while I don't?

Now, maybe I could deal with all of this if I thought that I would get credit for gaining some sort of special expertise, some respect from society for the skills I was being forced to acquire so rapidly. But this is a job in which one's friends, family, acquaintances, and even perfect strangers feel comfortable addressing what they see as your failings, while taking your accomplishments for granted.

There you are, out on the street with your baby carriage, pushing the little prince perched on his throne (he looks great, bathed, combed, dressed in the latest in infant fashion. You look like a sleep-deprived, unshowered, uncombed mess sporting spit-up on your shoulder.) Passersby look right past your haggard face and look disapprovingly at the baby.

Comments like: "It's cold outside! How can you take him out on a day like this?" Or: "Isn't it a little warm for him to be wearing a jacket?" are offered freely. Tell me, in what other work environment are people permitted to bust into your office and offer their unsolicited opinion on what you are doing?

So society terms what I'm doing now as "going back to work." They can call it what they wish, but I know better. I may be sitting at an office desk, typing away on a computer earning money ... but thanks to my daycare provider, I am showered, dressed, and able to get up to use the bathroom or fetch myself a cup of coffee at will. Sounds like a vacation to me.

EARTHLY CONCERNS

By DYORA BEN SHAUL

Each country enters the new world of environmental protection at its own pace and the subsequent disparity is reflected in the laws enacted by different states. This has led to an almost disastrous state of confusion and, even worse, has opened the door to the exploitative activities of those individuals, companies and countries who are far more concerned with monetary gain than with environmental protection.

The worst form of this exploitation is

environmental dumping. The industrialized nations, desperate to rid themselves of toxic waste, are finding places in the less developed world where they can deposit this dangerous material.

International bodies have tried, usually in vain, to deal with this problem. But dumping is not just a matter of waste products. There is also a form of economically orchestrated dumping that is far more dangerous. Today, countries denied a local market for environmentally dangerous products are actively seeking and finding markets where the legislation is less prohibitive.

Pesticide companies in the US, western Europe and here, still produce materials banned at home but welcome in Third World countries.

But Israel, due to a lack of positive legislation, is not only a dumper of pesticides but a dumping ground for many other products. While most Israeli companies have virtually eliminated CFCs as a propellant for many products, we are inundated by European and American products that continue to foist upon us a variety of cosmetics and cleaning or sanitation materials all produced by CFCs and all banned in their

country of origin.

It is obvious that unless we are to once again divide ourselves into the nations of the haves and have-nots, there must be an international agreement that prohibits the production, as well as the sale of environmentally harmful agents.

This is not a simple matter, but without an international consensus there can be no real improvement of the environment.

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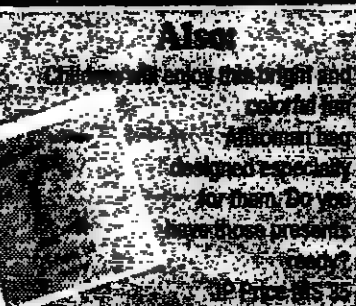
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Bartok: Concerto for orchestra

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BUSINESS

in brief

Sharon to visit Russia to discuss gas deal

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon is scheduled to visit Russia this month to discuss the purchase of natural gas. This visit follows Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Moscow meeting with Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin, during which the latter extended an invitation to Sharon.

Sharon is also likely to meet senior executives from RAO Gazprom, the world's largest gas producer.

Netanyahu told his counterpart he would be happy to consider buying gas from Russia if it is economically feasible. "This is just another possibility," Sharon's spokesman Ra'anan Gissin said. "We are not cancelling our interest in Egypt and Qatar. Russia could be either an alternative or an additional supplier."

David Harris

Israel Corp. makes new appointments

Israel Corporation has appointed Erwin Eisenberg as chairman of the holding company and Doron Steiger as general manager. Eisenberg, 46, succeeds his father, Shaul, who recently died in Beijing at the age of 76. Steiger is deputy chief executive at Dovrat Shrem, a Tel Aviv-based investment bank.

Jennifer Friedlin

Firm chosen to build gas turbine power station

Israel Electric Corporation's tenders committee has chosen Ben Yakar Gat construction company to build the Gezer gas turbine power station at Ramle. The total cost of the project is NIS 43.5 million, with the successful tender bid the lowest of the 12 received.

The four turbine plant will produce 560 megawatts of electricity, with construction work taking a year to complete. It is anticipated the first turbine will be operational by the middle of next year. The turbines themselves will be constructed by Siemens.

David Harris

Telrad signs \$10m. deal with Chinese firm

Telrad has signed a \$10-million deal to supply an undisclosed Chinese telecommunications provider with a system that monitors the telephone signaling network, a company spokesman said yesterday.

The system relays information about faults in a telecommunications network in real-time, allowing telecommunications providers to make quick decisions about how to redirect the flow of traffic over telephone lines.

Jennifer Friedlin

Propper pledges fight against racism

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper has promised his organization will do everything it can to help wipe out discrimination against Ethiopian immigrants in Israel.

In a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Propper suggested setting up a meeting between industry heads and senior figures in the Ethiopian immigrant community, along with representatives of Netanyahu.

During the meeting a plan of action would be adopted to tackle instances of racism in the workplace and similar issues.

David Harris

General shares index falls 2.2% in March

A decline of 2.2 percent was registered in the general shares index on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in March, according to figures published by the Central Bureau of Statistics. This followed a 4.4% increase in February. The overall increase for the first quarter was 17.1%, with the Mishkanim Index up 16.4% and the Maof 15.9%.

David Harris

Kuwait wants foreigners to pay health insurance

Kuwait plans to impose compulsory health insurance on its 1.2 million foreign residents to cut costs and what it sees as "excessive" use of health care services, a senior official said yesterday. "Medicine is expensive, so are medical equipment and technical staff," Abdul-Rahim Zaid, an undersecretary at the Gulf Arab state's Health Ministry, said.

Reuter

Beilin: PM must stop avoiding economic decisions

By DAVID HARRIS

Following Friday's cabinet decision to delay approving legislation to cap pay in the public sector, MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of being incapable of making key economic decisions.

According to Treasury sources, Netanyahu had agreed on Wednesday to a package of proposals from Finance Minister Dan Meridor, but during Friday's cabinet meeting bowed to pressure from his office director-general Avigdor Lieberman.

Lieberman recommended the issue not be discussed until Meridor and senior representatives of the Union of Local Authorities have had time to find a compromise.

Lieberman reportedly said there is no point in becoming bogged down in unnecessary struggles, referring to the strong opposition to the proposals, particularly from the union.

MKs from a variety of parties are once again concerned at what they see as Netanyahu's inability to make decisions and his susceptibility to his director-general.

"Exactly the same thing happened over the Brodet Report (on reforming the capital markets)," said Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz). "This changing of minds isn't only a big mystery, it's also very serious."

Not only do the existing excesses in public sector pay create economic problems, but also those of a social nature, according to Rubinstein. He contends that given the general low-pay wage levels here, seeing such large salaries in the upper echelons of the public sector can only breed contempt.

Responding to these claims on behalf of Netanyahu, his economic adviser Moshe Leon said that "the prime minister did not change his mind; he merely thought that if some ministers have reservations about the proposals, it is worth delaying the vote and seeing if a compromise can be reached."

Among those who expressed some concern over the Meridor plan were Foreign Minister David Levy, Interior Minister Eli Suissa and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy.

"The public sector proposals must be implemented, not in a Bolshevik way, but they must be approved at

the next sitting of the cabinet," said Beilin.

Not only is he worried by the excesses in municipality pay, but also those in government companies. "When professionals come for these top jobs, they must realize they are not entering a real free-market, but a sector where budgets and deficits are key."

"On the one hand we fight against increasing the minimum wage and on the other we allow these excessive wages," said Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher). "If the government does not approve this in the coming weeks, they can't come to us in the finance committee in the future to complain about the same excesses."

Initially, it was thought Meridor and the union delegation would meet this week, but with Meridor in the US until Thursday it seems the meeting is unlikely before next week. The issue will thus not come before the cabinet this Friday as was initially agreed, but more likely in 11 days.

Union chairman Adi Eldar described Meridor's proposals as a "catastrophe." There's always tension between central and local gov-

ernment, but these would make it unbearable. This goes much further than just talking of budgets, this is a real attack on our authority."

The debate has resurfaced in the public arena following the publication of Wage Director Yossi Kucik's third annual Public Bodies Salaries Report.

Meridor wants to see the creation of a research body to investigate salary levels in various government-funded bodies, a unit of investigation and economists to prepare legal actions, and an inter-ministerial committee to decide on the formulation of fresh legislation.

In practical terms, the Treasury is proposing to withhold grants and funding from bodies. In some instances, credit approval will not be awarded. Sanctions will be imposed on those in breach of the law, including being removed from their positions. The issue causing the most anger in the local authorities is giving municipal treasurers independent status.

Some of these measures can already be enforced, with others to be included in the proposed legislation.

MKs: June deadline for central bank reform

By DAVID HARRIS

The Knesset Finance Committee has called on the government to put forward proposals for the reform of the Bank of Israel by June at the latest.

This was the compromise agreement at the end of a discussion of MK Avraham Shohat's (Labor) private member's bill, which demands the creation of a board of governors for the central bank.

The majority of MKs on the Knesset Finance Committee agreed with Shohat's recommendation, but suggested it is proper for the plans to be drawn up by the government, rather than as a result of an opposition suggestion.

Only Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher) came out in support of the status quo, which gives bank Governor Jacob Frenkel the freedom to decide on key monetary issues.

Frenkel has been subjected to attack from politicians, economists and the business community for his failure to substantially reduce interest rates.

While the committee has agreed to freeze the debate on Shohat's bill, Frenkel and senior bank staff - lead by monetary division head David Klein - are completing their own proposals for a new Bank of Israel law, to replace the one passed in 1954. It is absurd that the basic regulations controlling an organ of government as important as the central bank be redefined by opposition-originated legislation, Frenkel said.

Within the coming weeks, Frenkel intends forwarding the bank's own proposals to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor.

The finance committee decided to look into the existing arrangements within the bank's hierarchy and to investigate the recommendations of the interim report of the Zussman committee, which recently presented its findings on reforms to Frenkel.

These will be looked at in relation to the bank's official targets, the currently available means for the bank to reach those targets, communication among the bank and government, Knesset and general public, and the decision-making process within the bank.

Frenkel told the finance committee that while the original Bank of Israel law emphasizes the bank's independence, it has not been updated to cater to changes in domestic and international economics over the last 40 years.

"If nothing substantive is forthcoming [from the government] I will press ahead with my private member's bill," Shohat told *The Jerusalem Post* following the discussion.

While supporting Shohat's proposal, Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) warned that any board of governors must not include representatives of the Treasury.

The central bank is going on stage further and suggesting that if a board is the final outcome, must not include what one source called "part-time economists who run their own businesses in the afternoon and will look to operate a policy that suits their own interests."



European finance ministers meet

European Commission President Jacques Santer clenches his fist during a press conference after a meeting of European finance ministers in Noordwijk, Holland. The 15 ministers agreed that a decision on which countries would take part in the launch of a single European currency in 1999 would be taken in late April or early May 1998.

(Reuter)

TAAS in black for first time since '91

By news agencies

TAAS Israel Industries reached profitability last year for the first time since 1991, when the company changed from an auxiliary unit of the Defense Ministry to a government firm.

TAAS posted a profit of \$23 mil-

lion (before extraordinary items) last year, compared with a \$55m. loss (before extraordinary items) in 1995 and 1994.

TAAS announced yesterday that special deductions, mainly early retirement, amounted to \$37m. last year, compared with \$54m. in 1995. Half the expense is covered by the

state, by means of increased company capital.

The net loss, after deducting extraordinary items, was \$14m. last year, compared with a \$110m. net loss in 1995. The loss stems entirely from the first quarter of the year. By the second quarter, the company showed no profit or loss. In the second half of the year, TAAS earned \$4m. after deducting extraordinary items.

The company's operating profit last year was \$10.6m., compared with a \$44m. loss in 1995. Each quarter showed a progressively higher operating profit.

Meanwhile, the country's five leading military manufacturers are considering a privatization and merger plan, *Ha'aretz* reported yesterday.

Directors of the five companies - TAAS, Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), Rafael Israel Armaments Authority, Tadiran Ltd., and Elbit Systems Ltd. - met recently to discuss the plan drafted by an external consultant, according to the report.

The plan calls for initially privatizing government-owned TAAS, IAI,

and Rafael and then merging them with private sector Elbit and Tadiran into one entity.

A spokesman for Elbit said government officials initiated talks about merging the companies, but he would not confirm if such a meeting had been held. Spokesmen for other companies would not comment on the report.

The newspaper said the ideas presented by the consultant, who estimated the companies' combined turnover at \$2.5 billion a year, were acceptable to all the directors at the meeting.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to privatize most government companies, but military manufacturers are expected to be among the last because of security considerations and strong workers' unions.

TAAS, IAI, and Rafael develop and manufacture military parts and systems for Israel and foreign markets. Tadiran, a subsidiary of Koor Industries Ltd., and Elbit are publicly traded electronics companies with civilian and military products.

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TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation is issuing an international tender for the purchase of the following:

TENDER	DESCRIPTION	Cost of tender documents, Inc. VAT (non-refundable)
587855	Rutenberg Power Station Unit 3&4 CHECK VALVES First Stage - Submission of technical/commercial data, without prices	NIS 351

Last date for submitting proposals: May 19, 1997 at 11.00 a.m.

Preliminary Conditions for Participation:

- Participation in a tender is subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6 (a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required for transactions with public bodies).
- If a bidder does not attach any particular document or permit, license or any other required material, as required by the preliminary conditions, the Electric Corporation may allow the bidder to submit the missing material, within a period of time to be set by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained, Sunday - Thursday, at the Projects Administration Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents, into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank branch. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-8615484). Before purchasing tender documents they can be examined at the offices of the Project Administration Department at the above address.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the secretariat of the Administration of Projects Department, room 710, Floor 7, in the Pal Yam Building in Haifa at the above address, before the last date of submission of bids as detailed above.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

Please note that our offices will be closed on the following dates:
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Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars: May 11, 1997
Independence Day: May 12, 1997

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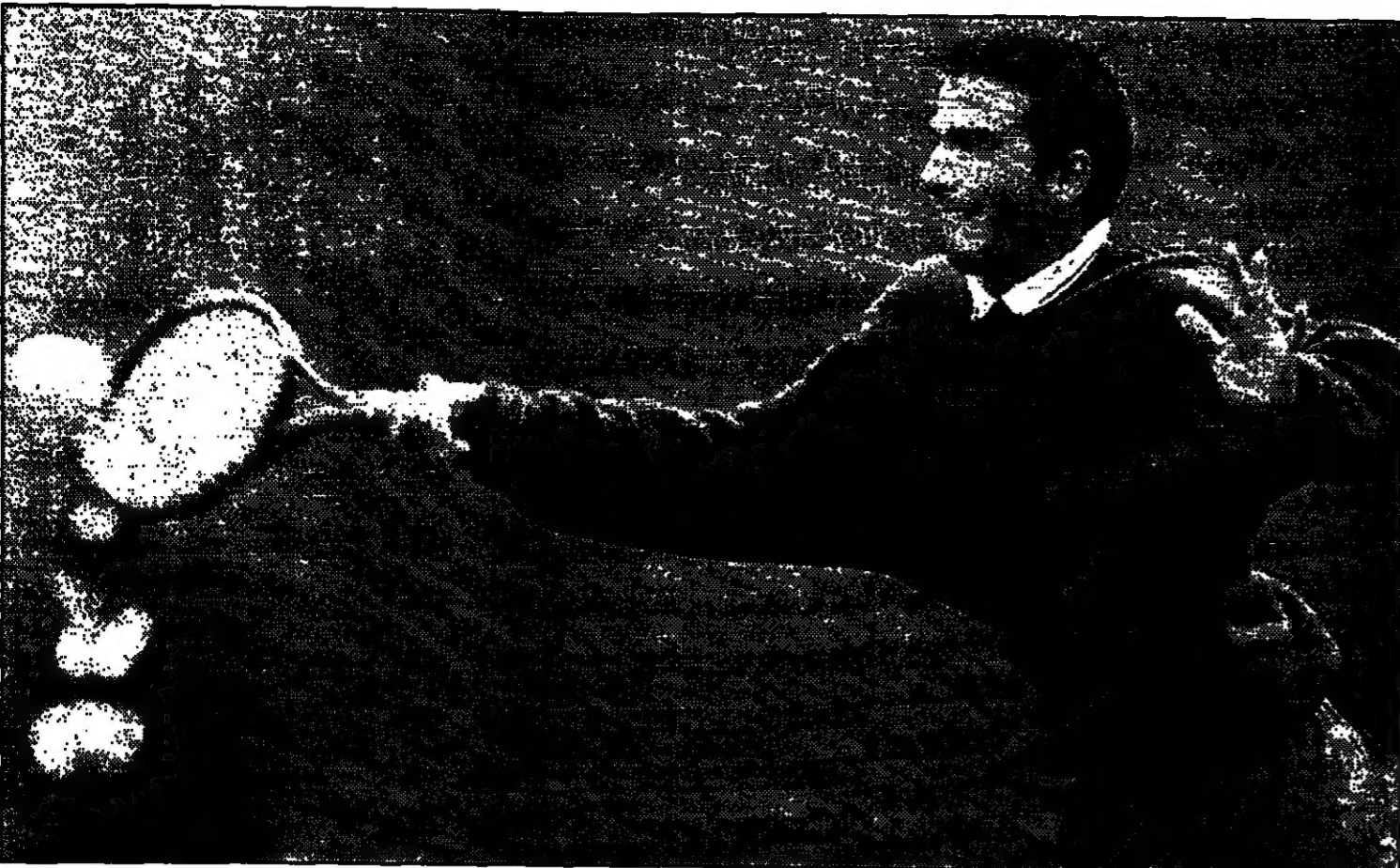
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Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.575	5.825	6.075		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.925	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.925	1.025		
Yen (¥10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (3.4.97)					
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANK NOTES		Rep.	
Currency basket	3.6286	3.6286	3.27	3.49	3.5386
U.S. dollar	3.2822	3.2822	3.27	3.49	3.3618
German mark	3.2819	3.2819	3.27	3.49	3.3618
Pound sterling	5.4498	5.4498	5.35	5.25	5.5084
French franc	0.5899	0.5899	0.57	0.61	0.5984
Japanese yen (¥100)	2.8824	2.8824	2.84	2.77	2.7189
Dutch florin	1.7857	1.7857	1.73	1.62	1.7854
Swiss franc	2.3155	2.3155	2.27	2.23	2.3420
Swedish krona	0.4873	0.4873	0.48	0.48	0.4878
Norwegian krona	0.4895	0.4895	0.48	0.48	0.4895
Danish krona	0.6681	0.6681	0.65	0.64	0.6681
Finland mark	2.3962	2.3962	2.35	2.27	2.6093
Canadian dollar	2.6854	2.6854	2.65	2.61	2.7094
Australian dollar	0.7641	0.7641	0.76	0.76	0.7641
S. African rand	2.6244	2.6244	2.58	2.47	2.6244
Belgian franc (100)	0.7683	0.7683	0.76	0.76	0.7683
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9780	0.9780	0.94	0.94	0.9780
Italian lire (1000)	2.0073	2.0073	2.00	2.00	2.0073
Jordanian dinar	4.8300	4.8300	4.83	4.83	4.8300
Egyptian pound	3.8888	3.8888	3.88	3.88	3.8888
ECU	5.2418	5.2418	5.15	5.05	5.2418
Irish punt	2.3491	2.3491	2.30	2.23	2.3491
Spanish peseta (100)					
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ON THE LOSING END - Israel's Eyal Ran could do little in his battle to keep Slovakia's Karol Kucera and the cold weather at bay in the Davis Cup tie in Bratislava yesterday. Kucera won 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 to give the host nation an unbeatable lead.

Ran loses to Kucera in decisive Davis Cup match

Slovakia advances to next stage after 3-1 win over Israel

By News agencies

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia Karol Kucera of Slovakia beat Israel's Eyal Ran yesterday, giving his country an unassailable 3-1 in their Davis Cup tie and securing a place in the Euro/African zone finals.

Kucera defeated Ran 6-2, 6-3, 6-2. The final "dead" singles rubber between Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty and Noam Behr of Israel was canceled due to the cold weather.

With Slovakia's win confirmed, the captains, Shlomo Glickstein and Miloslav Mecir and Swedish referee Anders Wennberg agreed to cancel the last singles match.

Kucera never gave Ran a chance, showing his typical patience and breaking Ran's serve three times in each set, while dropping his own only twice throughout the match.

Ran made several unforced errors and was even more demoralized by the fact that Kucera came back from 0-40 to win in three games.

"Karol prepared very well for this match. He played it cool," Miloslav Mecir, Slovakia's coach, said of the match.

Israel's next opponents are likely to be Morocco in a relegation tie to be played in Israel in September.

Sweden 3, South Africa 2

Jonas Bjorkman beat South African Grant Stafford in a tense five-setter on yesterday to give favorites Sweden a 3-2 win and a slot in the semi-finals for the sixth straight year.

Bjorkman beat Stafford 6-0, 6-0, 3-6, 6-2 in two hours 28 minutes in his home town of Vaxjo.

Bjorkman, partnered by Nicklas Kulti, also clinched the doubles match for Sweden on Saturday, beating South African duo David Adams and Ellis Ferreira.

The tie was level 1-1 after the opening singles on Friday when Sweden's No. 1 Thomas Enqvist beat 69th-ranked Stafford and South Africa's top player Wayne Ferreira beat Bjorkman.

Sweden took the lead on Saturday by winning the doubles but South Africa levelled the scores again earlier yesterday when Ferreira beat Enqvist 6-4, 6-4 in the first of the reverse singles.

Sweden now face Italy in the last four on September 19-21 in Sweden.

Since the World Group began in 1981, Sweden have advanced to nine finals, winning four of them, and have reached the semi-finals a further three times.

They lost 3-2 to France in last year's final.

Australia 5, Czech Rep. 0

In Adelaide, Australia completed a clinical 5-0 demolition of the Czech Republic when Mark Philippoussis and Pat Rafter won their reverse singles matches.

Australian No. 1 Philippoussis overpowered Martin Damm 6-4, 6-2 in the first of the reverse singles before Rafter beat David Rikl 7-6, 0-6, 6-2.

Philippoussis needed just 66 minutes to topple Damm on the Memorial Drive grass court while Rafter fought back after a sluggish start to overcome Rikl, a lowly-ranked player better known for his doubles play.

The tie was effectively over on Saturday when top-ranked doubles pair Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde beat Damm and Rikl 4-6, 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 to give the hosts an unbeatable 3-0 lead.

Australia now face a likely semifinal against the US, who were leading 2-1 in their quarter-final against the Netherlands at Newport Beach in California.

Australia, winners of the international men's team event 26 times, had endured mixed Davis

Cup fortunes in recent years.

Relegated from the elite 16-team world group after losing to Hungary in 1995, they fought their way back through regional qualifiers last year.

Their renaissance was confirmed when Australia upset holders France 4-1 in the opening round of this year's competition in February.

The Czech Republic's campaign was hit by the refusal of Petr Korda, Daniel Vacek, Boban Ulihrach and Slava Dosedel to play in the tie.

The team's fortunes dipped even further on Friday when Jiri Novak was forced to withdraw from his match against Philippoussis with a virus and was replaced by Rikl.

Italy 4, Spain 1

In Pesaro, Omar Camporese completed a 4-1 world group quarter-final victory for Italy over Spain when he beat Albert Costa 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in the second reverse singles yesterday.

The Italians had already booked themselves a place in the semifinals by winning Saturday's doubles for a 3-0 lead.

Earlier, Spanish No. 1 Carlos Moya made sure his team escaped a "whitewash" when he beat Maurizio Martelli.

The Italian, who was making his Davis Cup debut, gave the world No. 8 a tough time before losing 7-6, 4-6, 6-3.

In other ties, Zimbabwe took a winning 3-1 lead over Britain in their Davis Cup Euro/African zone group one second round tie after winning the first reverse singles when Byron Black of Zimbabwe beat Britain's Jamie Delgado 6-0, 6-0, 6-2.

Austria beat Croatia 3-2 in their European/African group one tie in Graz, Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) beat Thomas Muster (Austria) 6-7(5-7), 7-5, 6-7(5-7), 6-2, 7-5 and then Gilbert Schaller (Austria) beat Sasa Hirszon (Croatia) 6-3, 6-3, 7-5.

Salmon slam in 11th leads Angels over Indians

ANAHEIM, Ca. (Reuters) - Tim Salmon hit a grand slam in the bottom of the 11th inning as the Anaheim Angels rallied for an 8-6 victory over the Cleveland Indians Saturday.

Darin Erstad and Luis Alica greeted reliever Paul Shuey (0-1) with singles before Jim Edmonds walked to load the bases. Salmon, who had just two hits in 12 at-bats this season, worked the count full before hitting his third career grand slam over the left-field fence.

"He threw me a fastball and I just hit it out," Salmon said. "That was a big at-bat for Salmon," manager Terry Collins said. "He was struggling a bit before, but he had a plan for this at-bat. He was frustrated, but good players in situations like that come through."

Cleveland had scored twice in the top of the 11th on Tony Fernandez's two-run double to take a 6-4 lead.

Anaheim loaded the bases with none out in the 10th on a single by Dave Hollins, an error by second baseman Julio Franco and an intentional walk to pinch-hitter Todd Greene.

But Eric Plunk relieved Paul Assenmacher and retired pinch-hitter Jack Howell on a popup before Gary DiSarcina lined to center fielder Grissom, whose throw nailed Hollins at the plate.

Saturday's AL results: Milwaukee 5, Toronto 2; Detroit 15, Chicago White Sox 12; NY Yankees 10, Oakland 5; Minnesota 7, Kansas City 5; Baltimore 9, Texas 7; Cleveland 7, Anaheim 5; Boston 8, Seattle 6; Saturday's NL results: Colorado 15, Montreal 3; San Francisco 2, NY Mets 0; Florida 4, Cincinnati 3 (11); Atlanta 8, Chicago Cubs 5; Houston 6, St. Louis 2; San Diego 4, Philadelphia 1; Pittsburgh 3, Los Angeles 1.

Hapoel Tel Aviv relegated

By ELI GROWER

After 43 years in the National Basketball League, Hapoel Tel Aviv was relegated to the second division last night. Beni Herzliya, needing a win to stay in the league, pulled off the road victory and qualified for next year's Korac Cup competition to boot.

Meanwhile, Maccabi Ra'anana earned the home-court advantage in the playoff semifinals by defeating Holon on the road, while Hapoel Jerusalem and Hapoel Eilat round out the final four. In other action, Maccabi Tel Aviv completed its first undefeated season since the 1988-89 campaign by routing Galil Elyon. Beni Herzliya 63, Givat Shmuel 53.

Todd Mitchell overcame a shaky first half and scored Herzliya's final eight points as Herzliya overcame an eight-point deficit to defeat Givat Shmuel.

Herzliya's victory means that idle Hapoel Tel Aviv - after 43 years in the National Basketball League - has been relegated to the second division. Herzliya meanwhile, grabbed a spot in the Korac Cup by virtue of finishing in seventh spot in the standings.

A tremendous playoff atmosphere filled the air from the outset. Attempts by both clubs to play a fast-paced game failed to generate many points, as key players from both teams missed open shots throughout the game. At one point late in the second half, neither team

scored a point for almost four minutes.

The intensity of the game was manifested in an ugly scene when with seven minutes remaining in the first half, Givat Shmuel star Dennis Hopson threw Lior Arditi to the floor and then punched him in the face. Hopson's subsequent ejection precipitated a Herzliya comeback, as Muli Katzurin's club closed a 28-20 deficit to 35-31 at the half.

The second half belonged to Mitchell (29 points) and Arditi, who enhanced his reputation as one of the league's best clutch players.

The duo were able to thwart a terrific effort by David Brinsly, who hustled after every loose ball and Josh Oppenheimer, who rained in five three-pointers.

After the game, Katzurin complimented his players by saying, "Without insulting Givat Shmuel, the better team won. We focused all week on the job at hand. We came out and fulfilled our mission."

Mac Ra'anana 89, Hapoel Holon 87. Holon made a furious comeback charge towards the end of the game, only to fall short. Marc Brisker buried two free throws with 11 seconds remaining to ice the victory.

The win provided Ra'anana with the homecourt advantage for its battle with Hapoel Jerusalem in the semi-finals. The winner of that series will participate in the Euro League next season.

The Brisker free throws followed an incredible three-pointer from the

corner by Koby Balout that pulled Holon within one, 85-84.

Brisker led Ra'anana with 24 points while Paul Thompson chipped in 18. Derrick Hamilton paced all scorers with 26.

Hapoel Eilat 88, Mac Rishon 77. Rishon played as well as it has all year, but Corey Gaines and James Forrest proved to be too much for Rishon to handle. Forrest scored 27 points in the paint, while Gaines ran a masterful performance from the point.

Hapoel Jerusalem 92, Mac RG 71.

H. Waldman poured in four three-pointers in a second-half spurt that broke the game open as Jerusalem tuned up for its state-cup final against Maccabi Tel Aviv on Thursday.

Mac Tel Aviv 102, Galil Elyon 77. The Tel Avivians shattered any hopes that the northerners had of making the playoffs entering the game, by outplaying them in every department. Doron Sheffer paced Maccabi with 20 points.

National Basketball League Final standings				
	W	L	Pts.	
Maccabi Tel Aviv	20	0	40	
Maccabi Ra'anana	12	8	32	
Hapoel Jerusalem	12	8	32	
Hapoel Eilat	12	8	32	

	W	L	Pts.
Hapoel Galil Elyon	10	10	30
Maccabi Rishon	8	12	28
Beni Herzliya	8	12	28
Hapoel Holon	7	13	27
Givat Shmuel	7	13	27
Mac Ramat Gan	7	13	27
Hapoel Tel Aviv	7	13	27

Taiba player had a heart defect

By ORI LEWIS

Hapoel Taiba's Wahib Jbara, who collapsed and died during the National League soccer match with Beni Yehuda on Friday, was found to have suffered from a rare heart defect, the initial autopsy results have revealed.

All efforts to resuscitate Jbara, 23, on the pitch failed after he suddenly lost consciousness during play, he was pronounced dead on the way to hospital.

Deputy Education Minister Moshe Feled has set up a committee to look into the medical facilities at the scene at Umm el-Fahm. Although an ambulance was on hand, it may not have been equipped to cope with the situation.

The town of Taiba was still in deep shock yesterday as thousands came to pay their respects to Jbara's family. It was announced that club will bear his name and be known as Hapoel Wahib Taiba.

Unpredictable Knicks beat Hawks in key Eastern battle

ATLANTA (Reuters) - John Starks had 26 points off the bench as the unpredictable New York Knicks turned back the Atlanta Hawks 102-97 Saturday in a battle for third place in the Eastern Conference.

Starks hit seven three-pointers and Larry Johnson's free throw with 1:17 to play snapped a tie for New York, which opened a two-game lead over the Hawks in the battle for third place in the Eastern Conference. Atlanta

also fell one-half game behind fourth-place Detroit. Mookie Blaylock scored 32

points and Steve Smith added 26 for Atlanta, which lost for the fifth time in 39 home games this season. The Hawks were beaten for only the second time in their last 10 games overall.

New York improved to 24-14 on the road and has won three straight away from home. The Knicks have won two of three meetings with Atlanta this season.

Christian Laettner and Dikembe Mutombo both fouled out after Atlanta held its lead, 92-90 at the 2:50 mark.

Saturday's games: Seattle 103, Dallas 84; Miami 98, Toronto 84; Charlotte 115, Philadelphia 113; New York 102, Atlanta 97; Phoenix 99, Portland 96; Golden State 126, San Antonio 103.

Leicester's Heskey sets up League Cup final replay with late equalizer

LONDON (Reuters) - A scrambled Leicester City goal three minutes from the end of extra-time denied Middlesbrough the first trophy in their 121-year history as the English League Cup final ended in a 1-1 draw yesterday.

Leicester's Emile Heskey stabbed the ball home from close range after Middlesbrough's defence failed to clear.

Middlesbrough had seemed set for victory after Italian Fabrizio Ravanelli broke the deadlock in the evenly-fought tie by lashing home a left-foot drive through a crowd of players in the 95th minute.

Ravanelli's goal came just minutes after he had missed a far easier chance, shooting straight at goalkeeper Kasey Keller from three meters.

Both teams hit the woodwork in normal time with Heskey heading on to the top of the Middlesbrough bar after 65 minutes and Ravanelli heading on to Kasey Keller's right-post after 79.

Neither team had a goal attempt on target in a poor first half but the tempo of the match increased in the second before reaching its climax in a tense period of extra time.

The replay will be at Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough ground on April 16.

Liverpool waste chance to go top by losing 2-1 to Coventry

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - Liverpool wasted a golden opportunity to go top of the English premier league on yesterday when they conceded a last minute goal to lose 2-1 at home to struggling Coventry.

Liverpool, who would have knocked Manchester United off the top of the table for the first time since January if they had won, took the lead early in the second half through Robbie Fowler.

The England striker latched onto a pass from John Barnes and lashed a shot past Coventry goal-

keeper Steve Ogrizovic for his 29th goal of the season.

But Coventry equalized 13 minutes later through Noel Whelan and then stunned the Anfield crowd of over 40,000 with a winner from Dion Dublin.

Coventry's victory took them off the bottom of the league into fourth from last, one place above the relegation zone.

Liverpool remain third, level on 60 points with Arsenal and three points behind United, who lost 3-2 at home to Derby on Saturday.

Israel handballers crush Cyprus 30-9

By HEATHER CHAIT

The national handball team reached the preliminary rounds of the European Championships for the first time ever after last night's convincing 30-9 win over Cyprus at Hadar Yosef.

The result places Israel first in her section of the pre-preliminary rounds with wins over Cyprus and Greece.

In the next stage, from September this year, Israel will play against Slovenia, France and the Czech Republic.

Last Wednesday Israel beat Cyprus 27-18 in Nicosia but last night's home crowd was the key to the resounding success.

Top scorers for Israel were Shai Yaffe (7), Dov Yeshua (6) and Idan Maimon (4).

SCOREBOARD

NHL - Saturday's games: Boston 4, Florida 2; Pittsburgh 5, Ottawa 2; Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Islanders 1; Hartford 4, Montreal 3; Detroit 4, Toronto 2; Vancouver 4, Edmonton 2; St. Louis 3, Los Angeles 3, St.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and...

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NEWS

in brief

Student groups punished for violent protest

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem yesterday forbade the Meretz and Ofek (Labor) student groups to hold any activities until at least the end of the month, after a vigil last they held last week to protest a talk turned violent.

Fist fights broke out between some 50 demonstrators and campus security guards a half hour before a lecture was to be given by journalist Barry Chamish on a "conspiracy" behind the murder of Yitzhak Rabin. The talk was canceled.

The dean of students also said the Students Union would be charged for the damage caused during the disturbances, which included broken windows and furniture.

Itim

Forest dedicated to Pope John XXIII

Msgr. Loris Capovilla, who served as secretary to Pope John XXIII, yesterday participated in the planting of a Jewish National Fund forest near Nazareth in memory of the late pontiff and Jules Isaac, a Jewish writer to whom he had been close.

Before becoming pope, John XXIII had worked to rescue Jews under Nazi occupation, but experts on Jewish-Catholic relations maintain that it was Isaac, who formulated the concept of "the theology of contempt," who influenced him to undertake a drastic revision of Catholic teachings regarding Judaism.

John XXIII eliminated the reference to "the perfidious Jews" in the Good Friday prayers and convened the Second Vatican Council, which made the Catholic Church a pioneer in Christian rapprochement with Judaism.

Haim Shapiro

Korman trial moves ahead

The trial of Nahum Korman, the Hadar Beit security officer charged with beating to death an 11-year-old Palestinian boy, Hilmi Shoushi, entered the evidence phase yesterday in Jerusalem District Court.

A policewoman who was in the area during the stone-throwing in Kafr Hussan that preceded the incident in which Shoushi died, and who was sent to Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, where the boy was brought, testified that doctors told her there were no signs of violence on the boy's body, but that the boy would not live through the night.

Korman, 32, has denied the charges, saying the boy fell on his head while running away.

Itim



Nahum Korman
(Brian Hendler)



Labor leadership candidates Ephraim Sneh (left) and Ehud Barak shake hands at the ZOA House in Tel Aviv yesterday as Yossi Beilin (second left) and Shlomo Ben-Ami look on.
(Dan Oren/Israel Sun)

Barak won't join Beilin in fighting unity gov't

Labor membership down by more than 100,000

By SARAH HONIG

Three of Labor's four leadership candidates yesterday expressed unreserved opposition to joining a national unity gov-

ernment. But front-runner Ehud Barak, a staunch opponent of a unity government, refused to join in an anti-unity move with his most serious rival, MK Yossi Beilin.

All this happened at ZOA House in Tel Aviv, where the party's local branch held its convention in advance of the national convention next month. It was the first time all four candidates — Barak, Beilin, and MKs Ephraim Sneh and Shlomo Ben-Ami — appeared together, as Barak had until now refused to appear with the others.

Beilin, in his address, denied claims that "Barak is a Netanyahu clone. That is untrue. The fact is that Barak is 10 times better... If both of us together issue a joint statement against entering a national unity framework with the Likud, then such a government could never be."

But Barak, apparently unwilling to appear to be following Beilin's lead, replied that "the two of us are no better than Sneh or Ben-Ami, or than any central committee member. We must be weaned from the notion that

there are masters in the party who can decide without consulting the membership."

He reiterated his position that the current government "must be brought down, not saved."

Of the candidates, only Sneh did not speak out against a national unity government, though he did not support it.

The chief national unity advocate, party chairman Shimon Peres, left yesterday on a 10-day trip to South America. The Barak camp charges that Peres is eager to bring Labor into the Netanyahu government before the June 3 primary in which his successor will be elected. If he succeeds, Peres would enter the government as Labor's senior minister and will thereby cement his leadership regardless of who wins the primary.

According to the just-concluded party membership drive, only some 160,000 people will be able to participate in the primary. This is drastically down from the membership drive of less than two years ago when 282,000 registered as dues-paying members.

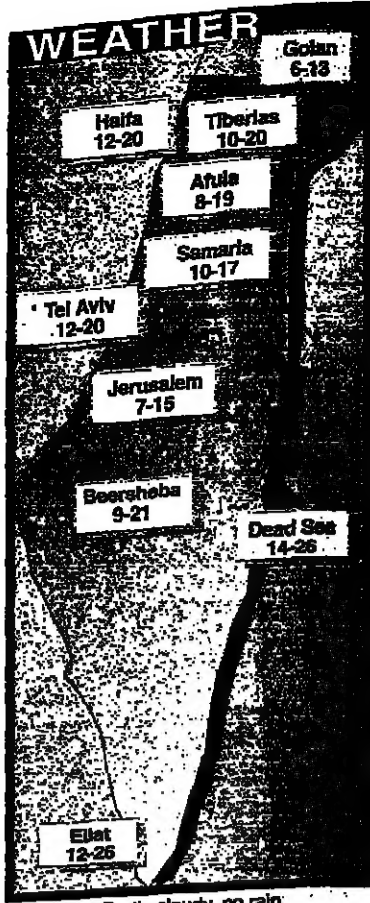
Meanwhile the possible national unity government was the main topic at yesterday's executive session of the National Religious Party, which expressed near-unanimous opposition to the notion, and especially to the possibility that the Likud might negotiate national unity without consulting its coalition partners.

The coalition agreement, said party secretary-general Zevulun Orlev, stipulates clearly that no new members may be brought into the coalition without the prior consent of the present members.

"To do otherwise would be outright betrayal," Orlev stressed.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said he was "far from certain that Netanyahu has actually decided to go ahead with national unity and in any case we are assured that no move will be considered without the present coalition partners."

Hammer said he plans to discuss the topic with Netanyahu when he returns from his trip to the US.



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW F		HIGH F		
Amsterdam	03	37	08	48	cloudy
Berlin	02	36	10	50	cloudy
Brussels	02	35	10	50	cloudy
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London	02	35	10	50	cloudy
Frankfurt	02	35	10	50	cloudy
Geneva	02	35	10	50	cloudy
Basel	02	35	10	50	cloudy
Zurich	02	35	10	50	cloudy
Vienna	02	35	10	50	cloudy
Munich	02	35	10	50	cloudy
Moscow	02	35	10	50	cloudy
St. Petersburg	02	35	10	50	cloudy
Warsaw	02	35	10	50	cloudy
Budapest	02	35	10	50	cloudy
Prague	02	35	10	50	cloudy
Bratislava	02	35	10	50	cloudy
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Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Bank will be held at its Registered Office, 24-32 Yehuda Halevy Street, Tel Aviv, on Tuesday, 29th April 1997, immediately following the Ordinary General Meeting to be held at 14:00 in the afternoon on that day, for the purpose of passing resolutions concerning the approval of service of and disclosure by Officers, according to the text presented to the General Meeting.*

A member entitled to attend and vote may appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and vote on his or her behalf. A proxy need not be a member of the Bank.

Tel Aviv, 7th April, 1997

By Order of the Board

Jennifer Jones, Adv.
Secretary

* The full text of the resolutions concerning the approval of service of and disclosure by Officers may be examined at the office of the Secretariat of the Bank at the Bank's Registered Office, 24-32 Yehuda Halevy Street, Tel Aviv, during normal business hours.

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Prosecution begins case against Olmert

By RANNE MARCUS

The prosecution called its first witnesses in the trial of Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert in Jerusalem.

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District Court yesterday. Olmert is charged with falsifying invoices and giving false declarations to the state comptroller.

The charges relate to the 1988 Knesset elections and the 1989 local council elections, when Olmert was the Likud's treasurer and a member of a non-profit organization in charge of donations to the party.

Olmert is charged with invoicing companies who donated to the Likud as "advertising services," so they could enjoy tax benefits. Olmert has denied all charges.

"I am happy that the trial has started and seems to be proceeding quickly," Itim quoted Olmert as saying. "I was never accused personally of any crime, but of being responsible for crimes which occurred. I am convinced that my innocence will be proven, and I believe that the trial will not last long."

Binyamin Carasso, one of the owners of a car importer, told the court that Yona Peled had asked him to advertise through a certain company. In fact, argued the prosecution, the money had been donated to the Likud.

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Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance drawing were the king of spades, the eight of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

International mayors conference opens in capital

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Mayors from 45 countries, including 11 US cities, have arrived here to attend the 17th annual International Conference of Mayors in Jerusalem. Co-sponsored by the American Jewish Congress, the US Conference of Mayors and the Foreign Ministry, this year's theme is "Taking the Past Into the Future: The City as a Vehicle for Change."

The mayors will hold several sessions with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and also meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Ezer Weizman. They will also visit holy sites and meet with new immigrants.

American mayors participating in the conference include Mayor Carolyn Allen (Greensboro, North Carolina); Mayor Brent Coles (Boise, Idaho); Mayor Karen Hassam (Springfield, Illinois); Mayor Vera Katz (Portland, Oregon); Mayor Bob Knight (Wichita, Kansas); Mayor Raymond Mariano (Worcester, Massachusetts); Mayor Pat McCrory (Charlotte, North Carolina); Mayor Michael Peters (Hartford, Connecticut); Mayor Elizabeth Rhea (Rock Hill, South Carolina); Mayor Ramon Luis Rivera (Bayamon, Puerto Rico); and Mayor William E. Ward (Chesapeake, Virginia). They will be joined by mayors from Australia, Belarus, Ghana, Tanzania and other countries.

"By spending this time in Israel in general, and Jerusalem in particular, municipal leaders from throughout the world will gain a deeper understanding of Israel's achievements and problems, both in its capital and in the nation at large," said AJC Honorary President Howard Squadron, who serves as the AJC's representative at the conference.